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Inter-Arab Affairs

Qaddumi, Al-Shar' Reportedly To Meet in Harare

JN1205083489 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0735 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 May (WAKH)—Informed Palestinian sources have said that a Syrian-Palestinian meeting will take place in the Zimbabwean capital, Harare, between Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, on the fringe of the ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Movement Coordination Bureau, scheduled to begin on Wednesday.

The sources told the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published here today that this meeting was agreed upon following the visit by a Palestinian delegation under Faruq Qaddumi last week to Algeria, during which the discussion centered on the Algerian mediation efforts to improve relations between the PLO and Syria.

The sources explained that during their meeting, Al-Shar' and Qaddumi will discuss the arrangements for the postponed visit, which a Palestinian delegation was supposed to make to Damascus after the 'Id al-Fitr holiday.

Greek Court Rules in Favor of Rashid Extradition

NC1205114189 Athens Domestic Service in Greek
1130 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] The members of the sixth criminal section of the Supreme Court decided by a majority in favor of extraditing Muhammad Rashid to the United States. As is well known, the U.S. authorities have accused Rashid of bomb attacks against planes.

PLO Official Denies Receipt of U.S. Peace Plan

TA1205132489 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic
12 May 89 pp 1, 7

[Text] Tunis—A Palestinian official has predicted that the third round of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue will be held at the end of this month between a delegation representing the PLO, headed by PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and an American delegation headed by Robert Pelletreau, U.S. ambassador in Tunis. This official refuted reports about a threat by the PLO to stop the dialogue with Washington.

Moreover, Jamil Hilal, deputy head of the PLO information department, denied reports to the effect that the United States had presented a plan for resolving the Middle East problem, consisting of 3 stages, to the PLO via an Arab African country. He said that with the exception of the proposal on holding elections in the occupied territories, to be followed by a transitional period, which was announced by U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, there is nothing new.

'Arafat Discusses Paris Visit, Israeli Plan

PM1205101489 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian
11 May 89 p 15

[Pietro Veronese report on PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat statements to journalists in Tunis—date not given]

[Excerpt] Tunis—[Passage omitted] [Journalist] President 'Arafat, in Paris you said that the PLO Charter—which states that the Israeli state does not have the right to exist—is obsolete. Why did you use the French adjective "caduque" [obsolete] when you always speak Arabic or English?

['Arafat] It is because I have started learning French this year.... [he laughed—LA REPUBBLICA editor's note]

[Journalist] This year? That is a kind of answer....

['Arafat] It is not strictly true. I learned a little French when I was young, before I learned English. I then abandoned it. It is a pity because I like it very much.

[Journalist] However, that adjective sounded like a new minor concession from you. Following the acceptance of the UN resolution, following recognition of Israel's right to existence, although the charter is still in force....

['Arafat] I am not making concessions. I am trying to conclude a real peace. The alternative is terrifying: The next war in the Middle East will be a terrible war.... What I said in Paris contains nothing new with regard to the decisions made by the Palestinian National Council in Algiers last November.

[Journalist] However, in Damascus Georges Habash and Ahmad Jibril, your political opponents within the PLO, accused you of treason because of that French adjective....

['Arafat] It is obvious that they do not agree, and they are saying so. That is Palestinian democracy. Perhaps you are opposed to democracy? However, you are talking to the PLO chairman. If you want to know Mr Habash's views, go and interview him in Damascus. ['Arafat ends]

This was the only point in the long collective interview in which Yasir 'Arafat seemed to lose his temper briefly.

[Journalist] Can you say something about the speech made by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Iranian parliament, last week in which he called on Palestinians to hound and kill Westerners throughout the world?

['Arafat] The Iranians think that they are speaking in Islam's name, but I do not think that, and I do not accept their advice.

[Journalist] Islamic fundamentalism is a major political problem for many Arab governments. You are the leader of a state that does not yet have any borders, but it seems that you are already facing this problem in the occupied territories.

['Arafat] It is not a problem for me. If there are elections in Palestine and the fundamentalists win 51 percent, I will hand things over to them. That is democracy.

[Journalist] Are you prepared to accept the Israeli Government's offer of elections on the West Bank and in Gaza?

['Arafat] Why not do what has been done in Namibia? That is an excellent example (a UN blue helmet contingent has been deployed since 1 April in the African territory occupied by South Africa with the task of supervising the withdrawal of the forces and the holding of free elections on 1 November—LA REPUBBLICA editor's note). But who can accept elections under a foreign occupation? We had experience of that in 1976 and it was extremely bad. All the men close to the PLO who were elected were prosecuted, arrested, or expelled, some were the victims of attacks and were killed or injured.

I would accept a solution like the Namibian solution, with a timetable agreed from beginning to end. But I must have agreement on the end. ['Arafat ends] (The agreement on Namibia, implementation of which has been entrusted to the United Nations, makes provision for a declaration of independence as the final stage—LA REPUBBLICA editor's note)

The last question was about the Smith and Wesson gun that 'Arafat wears on his holster belt, and the butt that stuck out of the holster shone under the electric light.

[Journalist] President, you are holding out the olive branch, but you still wear a gun at your side....

['Arafat] I am not a lizard that changes its skin with every season. Nor do I change my character. Moreover, the olive branch needs great protection.

'Arafat Conditions for Syria Visit Reported

LD1205094589 Kuwait KUNA in English 0804 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Kuwait, 5 May 12 (KUNA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has set four "difficult" conditions for accepting a visit to Damascus by a ranking Palestinian delegation, Arab diplomatic sources were quoted by a local daily as saying.

In a dispatch from Paris, the daily AL QABAS quoted the unnamed sources as saying that 'Arafat has demanded that an official invitation be extended to him by the Syrian Government in his capacity as the Palestinian president and that this invitation be conveyed by the Syrian Embassy in Tunis to PLO headquarters there.

This condition indicates that the Syrian Government has to officially recognize the legitimacy of 'Arafat's election as a president.

The second condition set by 'Arafat, according to the sources, is that Syrian officials have to declare their support to the political line which the PLO leadership is following and to support the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council in its latest session last November.

The third is that Syria has to free all Palestinian prisoners and not only a few of them and the fourth is that Algeria and the Soviet Union should be the guarantors of any agreements that might be concluded by Syria and the PLO.

According to the paper the Syrian leadership has told the Algerian and Soviet officials and an Arab country that is mediating between Syria and the PLO that Damascus welcomes any Palestinian delegation in Damascus without prerequisites.

The Syrian leadership does not support the Palestinian peace initiative because it believes that this initiative weakens the Arab negotiating position with Israel and might lead to a unilateral Palestinian-Israeli peace, the paper said.

PLO Rejects U.S. Request on WHO Membership

LD1105140389 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1308 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 May (KUNA)—The PLO has announced its rejection of the American request that the World Health Organization (WHO) not accept Palestine's membership. WHO has also declared its rejection of the American method of putting pressure on a number of member states of the international organization to support the American view.

In this respect, an official spokesman for the PLO office in Cairo told KUNA today that the American position was totally unacceptable, that the United States had no right to interfere in the affairs of a UN international organization, and that the PLO did not have to take orders from the American administration for its policies.

The spokesman said that the WHO member states would make a decision in this matter in accordance with international regulations.

As is known the United States has rejected the PLO's request that it be accepted as a full member of the international organization rather than its current status as observer.

Offers Financial Assistance

JN1205135889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Paris, 12 May (INA)—The PLO has expressed readiness to place at WHO's disposal the funds required to finance its programs in Africa in case the United States withdraws from this international organization as a result of its acceptance of the Palestinian state.

Dr 'Umar Masalihah, the Palestinian UNESCO permanent observer, told a group of journalists at the UNESCO headquarters here today that the PLO has collected the necessary funds to finance the WHO programs in Africa from a group of Arab and nonaligned states.

[In a separate report, Paris AFP in English at 1111 GMT on 12 May reports that the amount the PLO has collected to finance WHO programs and activies in Africa was "2.8 million dollars." Mr. Masalihah told AFP that he had been "authorised by the PLO general quarters in Tunis" to make the announcement. Mr. Masalihah said the amount raised was based on a figure put forward by African countries within WHO.]

Jibril Says 'Arafat To Meet Al-Sadat's Fate

NC1205075789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command, who is loyal to Syria, has announced that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's fate will be similar to that of late Egyptian President Anwar Al-Sadat's. Jibril pointed out that 'Arafat is a defeatist leader who makes new concessions daily, just like the French agent, Marshal Petain, who exhibited weakness to the Nazis during their occupation of France in the second world war, as Jibril put it.

In an interview with Channel 2 of French television, Jibril expressed the view that western media, which places 'Arafat at the forefront of the news and encourages him to make concessions, will lead him to his death in the same way it led to Al-Sadat's death.

PFLP's George Habash on Palestinian Charter

NC1105133389 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1052 GMT 11 May 89

[Message from Dr George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine "to the Palestinian masses in the occupied land at the beginning of the 18th month of the intifadah"; date not given—recorded]

[Text] O masses of our struggling people, children, old people, women, and men of our sacrificing people. The 9th of every month has become a day of special meaning and particular significance.

Since the outbreak of the glorious intifadah [uprising], the 9th of every month has become the day when a page of glory is turned and another begun regarding the march of our people toward freedom and independence.

Today, we welcome the 18th month of intifadah with a strong will and relentless determination. Because our will is strong and our determination relentless, our enemies—the imperialists, Zionists, and reactionaries—are using every means to break our defenses and conquer our invincible fortress of our intifadah and our national unity.

The United States, which found itself forced to open dialogue with the PLO, is still using the same old methods with which our long years of struggle have made us familiar. The U.S. Administration and its capitalist allies have come to understand that the strength of the PLO is based on the valiant intifadah within the homeland and the pointed rifle [al-bunduqiyah al-Mushra'ah] outside the homeland.

As for the pointed rifle in Lebanon, they [the U.S. Administration and its allies] said: Let a truce be announced and let the guns be silenced because dialogue requires calm and is hard to conduct while guns are being fired. As for the intifadah, they said: It is (?important) to hold representative elections as a prelude to granting the Palestinian people self-government. And, as for our Palestinian national charter, they said: It is incompatible with the spirit of the new political phase.

To the U.S. Administration and its allies, to Shamir and his government, and to all those who collude with them, we say: The fighting Palestinian rifle will remain pointed, and the Palestinian bullets will remain directed at all those who occupy the homeland, shed the blood of our people, and engage in various forms of repression and terror.

To them we also say: The intifadah of our people will continue and will gain in strength. Our people will not accept meager bribes in the name of local elections.

To them we also say: The Palestinian national charter cannot be changed by any individual, regardless of who he is. The charter has been a rallying point for the masses of our people, and those mases have sacrificed thousands of martyrs under its banner. The heroic masses of our people will know how to preserve their charter and defend their revolution until their goals are fully attained. Foremost among these goals are: The rights to return, to self determination, and to establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Let everyone know that our people have taken up arms and picked up stones to continue to struggle until freedom and independence are atained and until the independent and sovereign Palestinian state is established.

O masses of our heroic people, if the enemies always seek maneuver and deception, we, as strugglers and revolutionaries, always seek to keep our political line clear of ambiguity and obscurity, because the popular masses always need clear-cut stands.

We ask those who keep themselves far from clarity and reality to point out to us a single spot in the world where free elections have taken place under the bayonets of occupation and usurpation forces. Can they also point out to us a people who would accept laying down their arms in response to their enemies' desires?

We tell them all: Our central slogan, which is not open for discussion, is the right of our people for return, self-determination, and the establishment of the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. The mechanism of implementing any settlement that would achieve our central slogan lies in convening the international conference vested with full powers.

Until the conditions for convening the international conference are fulfilled, we call for temporary international supervision as a step on the road toward defeating the occupation forces and driving them away from the homeland, toward achieving freedom and independence, and toward convening the international conference vested with full powers. Until then the intifadah of our people will continue and escalate and the bullets of our revolutionaries will continue and escalate. With this clarity and on these bases, national unity will be established and consolidated as a chief condition for victory.

O masses of our heroic people, we call on the living forces in our Arab nation, our Arab masses wherever they may be, and all factions of the Arab national liberation movement, to give every means of support and assistance to the people's glorious intifadah that has entered its 18th month with relentless determination.

We further call on the Arab countries to delineate [tahdid] their relations with the United States in accordance with the U.S. Administration's stand on the national inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, foremost being their right for return, self-determination, and the independent Palestinian state.

In the name of our Political Bureau and Central Committee, and in the name of all fighters, cadres, and members, we pledge to you that we will never forget the pure blood of martyrs and pure souls. We also will never forget the objectives for which they fought and died. We will never forget the sufferings, tortures, and persecution of the prisoners. We will continue the struggle until victory or martyrdom. We will triumph. Peace be upon you.

PLO Reportedly Demands Election 'Guarantees'

JN1205080289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 May (WAKH)—A responsible Palestinian source has said that the PLO had officially informed Washington and Moscow of its acceptance of elections in the occupied Palestinian territories, provided they are held according to international proposals and guarantees and not according to the plan of the enemy prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published here today cited the Palestinian source as saying that the PLO has demanded that the elections must be preceded by the withdrawl of the occupation troops; the release of 30,000 Palestinians detained in Israeli jails; guarantees of civil liberties and the rights of free expression, advertisement, and publication; and sufficient guarantees on the occupation authorities' acceptance of the outcome of these elections.

Radio Criticizes U.S. 'Threat' Over WHO, Dialogue

JN1105184889 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 May 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the United States can ask Israel for whatever it wants and expect it to meet its requests and implement its instructions. This is because the existence, meaning, and destiny of Israel are linked to the wish of the U.S. Administration and to the U.S. military, political, and economic umbrella that covers Israel from the consequences of its evil doings and sins, including its daily official, systematic terrorism against our kinfolk in the occupied territories.

The U.S. umbrella also provides a cover for Israel's terrorist threats and the meetings called for by Shamir—meetings which can be described as meetings of the council of war or council of terrorism against the PLO and against the head of the State of Palestine, which Shamir publicly said he did not wish to see on the map.

Yes, the United States can ask Israel for whatever it wants and give it instructions. The price is paid fully, and even much more. However, the United States cannot ask the same from us. It has no right to give us instructions. This is because the United States owes us a great deal, for which no price can paid. What it owes us is mixed with Palestinian blood, which has been shed by those who are protected by the United States.

We do not believe that the U.S. Administration has become simpleminded enough to imagine that its threat to suspend the dialogue with us can affect our decision to request WHO membership or to believe that its tremendous individual and collective pressure on states to withhold support from the PLO can concern or terrorize us. Regarding the dialogue, yes, we did ask for and are still interested in it. This is for one reason of which we are fully aware: The United States can influence greatly the future of the entire Palestine and Middle East question. Therefore, a dialogue must be held to shorten distances and reach a just solution to the Palestine question—a solution whose features have become very clear to world public opinion.

However, our interest in the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue does not make us kneel to the White House. We cannot yield to this terrorist threat, especially since the entire dialogue is still unable to move ahead because of the U.S. Administration itself. The dialogue is also still far away from the substantive matters for the sake of which the Palestinian people have paid and are still paying the gravest sacrifices.

According to any interpretation, a dialogue is a joint wish to reach an understanding. This wish will never reach its final objective if the U.S. pistol of terrorism is ready under the table to fire the coup de grace at this dialogue, which we are trying to handle with all care we have. This is because we really wish to get our people to the shore of a just and entrenched peace. The dialogue is not an end in itself; it is our boat to reach that shore, provided that the U.S. Administration understands that there is no room in this boat for unfairness, encroachment, and tyranny and for the imposition of hegemony, control, and might.

This is the only visible U.S. attitude so far. Otherwise, what does it mean that the U.S. Administration pressures states one after the other and threatens that it will suspend payments to the WHO if it accepts the State of Palestine as a full member?

Undoubtedly, this is a new hostile act against the Palestinian people. This act does not accord with the wish to hold a dialogue and the sincerity of intentions toward holding and going ahead with it. The United States can ask Israel for whatever it wants and give it instructions, because it gave it everything—existence, meaning, and destiny. However, it can ask us for nothing as it stands against our people's hopes and legitimate aspirations, not to mention its defense of the daily Zionist killing and terrorism. Therefore, the U.S. request is totally rejected.

OPEC Affairs

OAPEC Reportedly To View Egyptian Membership

LD1105133989 Kuwait KUNA in English 1153 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Kuwait, May 11 (KUNA)—Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-'Adhbi Thursday [11 May] told KUNA that the upcoming meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), due to convene here next Saturday, will take a decision restoring Egypt's membership to the organization.

Meanwhile, an authoritative oil source said the reinstatement of Egypt would consequently mean restoring its membership to all the companies affiliate to the organization to which it was a member before being suspended.

Egypt's membership to the Arab League and all other Arab organizations was shelved after it concluded a peace agreement with Israel in 1979.

Algeria

Calm Returns to Souk-Ahras; 61 People Arrested

LD1105230489 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] After the recent riots in the town of Souk-Ahras, the Governorate of Souk-Ahras has issued a second communique which says:

"Following the acts of sabotage committed in the town of Souk-Ahras on 10 May, the security forces have taken measures under the law to find out the identities of those who were behind such acts and who committed them, and to bring them to justice. As a result of the current investigations, 61 people have been arrested after their participation in these acts was established. They will be referred to the court."

The communique indicates that the investigations will continue until all those who took part in the acts of sabotage are arrested and that some of the public housing that had been illegally occupied has been vacated and their occupiers are brought to justice.

The authorities have mobilized all means available to guarantee the resumption of activities with the active participation of the town's inhabitants, most of whom have expressed their indignation and opposition to such acts, which harm their interests and the reputation of the town of Souk-Ahras.

The communique ends by saying that calm has returned to the town, which has resumed its normal activities.

FLN Central Committee To Meet 15 May

LD1105131689 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpt] The National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee will meet on 15 May. Its task will be to decide on a date for the extraordinary congress and on the matters to be debated by congress delegates. This was announced this morning by the national daily EL MOUDJAHID. With this in mind, the paper also announces a meeting next Saturday of the National Commission on Preparations for the Congress. [passage omitted]

Military Delegation Leaves for Moscow

LD1205074189 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] An Algerian military delegation, led by Colonel Abdelmajid Targhit, commander of the naval forces of the National People's Army, left Algiers this morning for Moscow. The National People's Army delegation will stay in the Soviet Union for a visit, whose length has not been announced.

Egypt

ACC Summit Slated for Cairo 20 May

NC1105224289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 May (MENA)—The AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper reports in its Friday issue that the quadripartite summit of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] leaders will be held in Cairo on 20 May.

The paper adds that, during the summit, President Husni Mubarak, King Husayn of Jordan, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Yemen Arab Republic are expected to approve the by-laws and statutes of the ACC's general secretariat, as proposed by the four countries' prime ministers during their meeting in Baghdad in April.

The four leaders are also expected to choose a secretary general for the ACC. Egypt will chair the current session of the ACC, which will open when the 20 May summit begins and will last until a new session is held in one of the other three Arab capitals: Sanaa, Amman, or Baghdad.

It is worth noting that the emergency Arab summit will be held in Casablanca on 23 May. President Saddam Husayn, King Husayn, and Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih have all decided not to take part in any Arab summit not attended by Egypt.

Mubarak Telephones Saddam, Husayn, Fahd, Salih

NC1105161889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak telephoned Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and King Husayn of Jordan this afternoon. The three leaders discussed the current Arab situation in light of recent developments. They exchanged views on the forthcoming Arab summit which will be held in Morocco.

President Mubarak also spoke on the telephone with King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques. The two leaders held consultations on a number of important Arab issues, including the emergency Arab summit.

In addition, President Mubarak telephoned President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Yemen Arab Republic. They exchanged views on Arab issues and the forthcoming emergency Arab summit. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Cited on Israel, PLO, Domestic Issues

NC1205040889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 11 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has called on Israel to seize the opportunities for peace currently available. Israel should realize, he said, that peace is a precious and invaluable objective and that its attainment is worth making sacrifices for.

Speaking to senior radio and television personnel at the start of his visit to the radio and television building today, the president explained the PLO's positive initiatives. He affirmed that the Palestinian people must obtain the right to establish their own state on their own land.

Regarding the forthcoming Arab summit, the president referred to the telephone calls he made this morning to a number of Arab heads of state in order to exchange views on the topics to be discussed at the summit. He noted that the Lebanese crisis is the most pressing matter for the Arab world.

This came in a statement by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif following President Mubarak's meeting with the senior radio and television personnel. The meeting was attended by Husayn 'Anan, chairman of the Radio and Television Federation; the chairman of radio and the chairman of television; and Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji, chairman of the Public Information Authority.

Al-Sharif added that the president had underlined the need for Egypt to develop its economic, military, cultural, and scientific capabilities, since only a strong Egypt would be respected by the world. The president noted that Egypt's strength lies in its Armed Forces that are capable of safeguarding its security, and in its universities, scientists, workers, and farmers who are helping to bring about a renaissance on its land. [passage omitted]

Regarding the economic situation, the president noted the economic circumstances that we are currently passing through. He stressed the need to maintain stability and pay the utmost attention to investment, whether it involves Egyptian, Arab, or foreign funds, in order to give momentum to production.

The president stressed the importance of promoting tourism as part of the sound measures for economic reform. He explained the ongoing contacts with the IMF and the World Bank and the current talks aimed at reaching an agreement with them, on the basis of a gradual economic reform policy that is in line with the Egyptian plan and that takes society's circumstances into consideration.

The president called on the radio and television executives to enlighten the citizens on the hazards of overconsumption and its relation to the family's social and health standards. The president said the media should stress the negative impact overpopulation has on the development plan, noting that the increase in population is the most serious problem threatening Egypt. [passage omitted]

Soviet Minister Continues Visit to Cairo

Meets With Energy Minister

NC1105131089 Cairo MENA in English 1245 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Cairo May 11 (MENA)—Minister of Electricity and Energy Mahir Abazah today received visiting Soviet Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katushev.

The meeting dealt with ways of boosting bilateral relations as well as the possibility of a greater Soviet contribution towards the implementation of power projects in Egypt with emphasis on the 'Uyun Musa station.

Meets Minister of Industry

NC1105135889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 May (MENA)—Industry Minister Eng Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab today received Konstantin Katushev, Soviet minister for foreign economic relations, and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting dealt with the outlook for industrial and technical cooperation, as well as the industrial projects which will be launched with the help of the Soviet Union, particularly in the iron and steel, coke, and chemical industries.

The purpose of the current bilateral talks is to encourage Soviet contributions to the establishment and renovation of industrial projects launched in Egypt in the sixties, including the iron and steel industry, as well as to the establishment of a graphite factory. Increasing the volume of Egyptian manufactured exports to the Soviet Union is also one of the objectives of these talks. [passage omitted]

Al-Wafd Reportedly Submits 'Forged List'

JN1105165489 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 10 May 89 p 1

[By Jalal al-Sayyid]

[Text] Al-Wafd People's Assembly Member Mustafa Burham has announced that the Supreme Administrative Court has made a mistake in its ruling on the victory of 78 candidates because the Al-Wafd Party has cheated the court and submitted a forged list. The elections were not conducted on the basis of this forgery in the third western constituency, he added.

Burham said that the original list includes the name of Mustafa Burham as the first candidate on the list representing the workers and that the elections were conducted on this basis. Mustafa Burham added that the Al-Wafd Party submitted a forged list to the court in which Mustafa 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Nahhas was the first candidate instead of the second.

Mustafa Burham said that he has prepared a report to the public prosecutor proving that the court's ruling is based on cheating and, consequently, there is a mistake because it is based on forgery as Al-Wafd submitted to the court a forged list.

The AL-AKHBAR editor for parliamentary affairs has learned that there is a tendency in the People's Assembly on the need to apply the Constitution and not to violate it, particularly with regard to the percentage of workers and peasants.

The People's Assembly also believes that implementing the court's ruling is considered an encroachment on the Constitution and this percentage. The People's Assembly is the only side that has the power to make a decision on the legal membership of its members as well as on the objections. The People's Assembly interdicts any other judicial or administrative side from deciding the legality of its members.

Central Bank Amends Interest Rate Structure

NC1105131289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 May (MENA)—The Central Bank of Egypt issued a decision today amending the structure of interest rates on savings. According to the new decision, the interest will be increased by 3 percent, making the maximum interest rate on deposits 16 percent yearly on 7-year deposits. The decision will take effect on Monday, 15 May.

The decision also provides for a two percent increase in the interest rates on Egyptian currency loans, to match the increasing cost of attracting savings. It also aims to alleviate the burden on borrowers and to encourage investement.

However, the decision was carefully designed to maintain the preferential interest rates charged according to the type of economic activity in which borrowers are engaged and the terms of their loans. In so doing, the decision will reduce the cost of loans granted to the agricultural and industrial sectors, as well as for export and economic housing projects.

Libya

Romanian Defense Minister Arrives in Tripoli

LD1105113889 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1126 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 11 May (JANA)—Colonel General Vasile Milea, Romanian minister of national defense, and his delegation arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Official Receives Gabonese President's Envoy

NC1005104189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0955 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Tripoli, 10 May (JANA)—The brother secretary of the people's committee of the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation received in Tripoli today (Cobna Myoti), personal adviser to and envoy of Gabonese President Omar Bongo.

(Cobna Myoti) arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

Rebels Occupy Garrison Town Near Malakal

EA1105143789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The Sudan Government Army has withdrawn from another garrison town in war zone one.

The news in detail: Two days ago, 9 May 1989, the Sudan garrison withdrew from Adong in Upper Nile Province. Adong is 40 miles east of Malakal on the Sobat River and is the administrative headquarters of Sobat District. SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces of Northern Upper Nile Zonal Command, under the command of Commander Martin Manyiel Ajuwal, occupied Adong yesterday at 0600 Sudan local time [0400 GMT], 10 May 1989.

The evacuation of Adong is connected with the recent negotiations and agreement between the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]-SPLA political-military high command and patriotic officers in the Sudanese Army. The patriotic officers have agreed to use their own ways and means to facilitate withdrawal of all outpost garrisons in the south to the three main towns of Juba, Wau, and Malakal, and in southern Kurdufan and southern Blue Nile to the two main towns of Kaduqli and Damazin.

The patriotic officers have decided on things of action to prevent Sadiq al-Mahdi from achieving his goals of destroying the regular Sudanese Army through fighting with the SPLA so as to enable him to replace it with a sectarian party army by 1992. The recent voluntary withdrawals from Akobo, Waat, and Adong are a part of this process.

Other outpost garrisons in the south and in southern Kurdufan and southern Blue Nile are expected to withdraw to main towns within the next few months. The patriotic officers will keep the Sudanese Army and the public informed of developments as they unfold through Radio SPLA.

In another development, elements of Anya Nya II in Fanjak District have responded to the call by the chairman and commander in chief, SPLM-SPLA, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, to join ranks and get integrated into the SPLA. A group of 312 Anya Nya II, led by Brigadier Abraham Boi Chuol, popularly known as (Bol Nyanytony), has joined the SPLA and more are coming every day. Brig Gen (Bol Nyanytony) will soon make a statement to this effect on Radio SPLA.

Armed Chadian Groups Hand Over Weapons

NC1105125789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Khartoum, 11 May (MENA)—Some of the Chadian groups that entered Sudan lately have handed over their weapons to the security authorities and the Sudanese Armed Forces units in Darfur Province. The region's municipal authorities have agreed to treat these groups as refugees.

This was stated today by Dr al-Tijani Sisi, governor of Darfur Province, in an interview with the Sudanese newspaper AL-SUDANI.

According to SUNA, the Darfur governor added that regional authorities are chasing the fugitive Chadian groups to disarm them.

Dr al-Tijani noted that the reconciliatory meeting designed to bring together disputing tribes will be held this Monday. He expressed the hope that this meeting will succeed in bringing about stability and peace among the disputing tribes.

Al-Mahdi Appoints Khartoum Commissioner

EA1105080889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, has issued a decree appointing Miss Ihsan Abdullah al-Bashir commissioner of the national capital [replacing Air Force General Muhammad al-Fatih Abdun who was chairman of the Khartoum branch of the National Islamic Front at the end of 1987].

GCC Affairs

GCC Official Views China Trade Potential

PM1105162789 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 May 89 p6

[Interview with Dr 'Abdallah al-Quwayz, Gulf Cooperation Council assistant secretary general for economic affairs, by Ahmad Makhtum in Jeddah; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Makhtum] You visited Beijing recently. What was the objective of the visit and what results has it achieved?

[Al-Quwayz] The visit was made at a personal invitation from the Chinese society for international understanding. The society organized a conference to study development strategies in Third World countries. The visit was offered to me on a personal basis through the Chinese Embassy in the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. So I went and participated in the seminar's debates.

I submitted a paper on the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states' development strategy that has arisen from the GCC economies. These economies are determined by the fact that the state produces one commodity, namely, oil, which it exports to the world, and then imports most of its needs. [passage omitted]

[Makhtum] In view of that visit, how do you see as the future of trade between China and the GCC states?

[Al-Quwayz] There are many areas of cooperation, since China can export many things to the GCC such as food, meat, raw material, and equipment. The GCC states have many things which they can export to China such as oil products, petrochemicals, and consumer goods. This is why I believe that there are broad prospects for trade cooperation between the two sides. And in addition to trade, the investment area can be explored.

I have noticed that China is eager to attract foreign investment. And as you know, that depends on the private sector's assessment and calculations in terms of profit, loss, security, and return. And in the end that will depend on the protection provided by China. But the GCC states are concerned primarily with investment within the GCC states themselves, because this is the policy pursued by their governments toward their private sectors, on the basis that the GCC states are economically open and there are no restrictions on the economy or investment. [passage omitted]

[Makhtum] A Saudi-Chinese company was set up recently. Did the visit have anything to do with the establishment of that company? And what is your opinion of such a step?

[Al-Quwayz] My visit to Beijing had nothing to do with the establishment of that company. As I told you, the private sector joins in the investment which it believes is profitable, and I do not involve myself in the affairs of those who set up such a company.

[Makhtum] Are political relations between the GCC states and China subject to collective decisions, or are they left to individual initiatives?

[Al-Quwayz] This question does not fall within my authority, but the GCC states always coordinate among themselves without affecting the independence of any member's decision. Every state acts in the light of its own individual interests and assessment of political conditions. And although there is complete coordination among the GCC states, that does not conflict with the members' own decisions. [passage omitted]

[Makhtum] How is the implementation of the unified economic agreement proceeding, and are you happy with the implementation procedures?

[Al-Quwayz] Implementation is proceeding well. It started rapidly but later slowed down, because we began to get involved in sensitive issues concerning sovereignty and the member states' daily economic policies, which must be studied thoroughly and not endorsed before we are sure of the position of all the member states. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Minister Discusses Security, Media Matters

PM1105104889 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 5 May 89 pp 22-23

[Interview with Information Minister Shaykh Jabir Mubarak al-Hamad al-Sabah by unidentified reporter in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: In the past few months there has been a great deal of media activity in Kuwait, with many information organizations and establishments coming to Kuwait, which has helped to develop the information field. Is this the beginning of a new information strategy by the Kuwaiti Information Ministry?

Shaykh Jabir: Yes, it is. Our concept of information has two dimensions, the internal and the external. All the information media should play their part in this and in carrying Kuwait's voice strongly to the farthest corners of the earth and in conveying Kuwait's honorable image to all states and societies. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What about security in Kuwait? Is it now completely stable? What about the current trials and the aftermath of the Al-Jabiriyah [April 1988 Kuwaiti Airways passenger jet] hijacking?

Shaykh Jabir: Security in Kuwait is always stable and will remain so, God willing. Isolated incidents which have occurred do not affect security in general and they were contained by the various departments and the public very conscientiously.

That is why they did not cause the intended rift in our society, and thanks to the clear vision, foresight, and conscientiousness of our political leaders headed by his highness the amir and his highness the heir apparent, may God keep them safe, and the high morale of our people at the time of these incidents. They did not lose their composure in any away. On the contrary, the incidents further united the people behind their leaders.

Regarding what you call the current trials, there are a number of people on trial for crimes against the state's security and the present regime. There are 33 defendants, including both Kuwaitis and foreigners. Some have been detained and are being held for trial, others have absconded and are being tried in absentia. Their fate is in the hands of the judiciary, which will have the final word.

Regarding the hijacking of the Al-Jabiriyah plane, I believe there has been no aftermath. As is well known, the hijacking ended in Algeria as soon as those who came from darkness [the hijackers] disappeared back into the darkness cursed by all nations of the world. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Is it true that Kuwait has discussed with President Husni Mubarak the dispatch of Egyptian forces to Kuwait in the event of a foreign aggression? How true are these reports?

Shaykh Jabir: As far as I know, this has not been discussed with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Kuwait's strength lies in its people, Army, and national unity. These are the stronger and sharper weapons. Having said that, I would add that Kuwait is a dove of peace but if, God forbid, it is attacked, then all the fraternal and friendly states would support and defend it. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Are there any political prisoners in Kuwait? Have there been any unannounced subversive acts?

Shaykh Jabir: If by political prisoners you mean prisoners of opinion then I assure you that there are none, but if you mean prisoners who have been convicted and sentenced by competent civil courts in cases involving explosives and terrorism, then they should not be called political prisoners for they have endangered people's lives, property, and security, which is life's first prerequisite.

As to whether there have been any unannounced acts of terrorism, rest assured that here in Kuwait we have nothing to hide from our people or the world. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Has the Arabsat satellite lived up to expectations?

Shaykh Jabir: The Arab satellite could play a bigger part than at present if well-thought out plans were made for its most efficient use and if these plans are implemented to the full. To be honest, we in the information field wish to see this satellite ideally exploited to full capacity, and if there are any obstacles, then they can be overcome by agreement and if all specialized Arab efforts are pooled. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What have the Kuwaiti media done to counter Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses"?

Shaykh Jabir: From the outset of that case we did not wish to involve our official media in a case of a filthy book by a filthier author because neither the book nor the author deserves the attention of our official media. We simply adopted the resolutions issued by the Islamic foreign ministers and we banned entry into Kuwait of that book and any other book by the same author. Our local media dealt with all aspects of this matter and repudiated the contents of that book. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Foreign Minister Reviews ACC, Arab Ties

JN1205100389 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 10 May 89 p 2

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, by Aminah al-Naqqash in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Naqqash] What was your mission in Cairo?

[Al-Dali] My mission was to revive communication between the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] and Egypt—their leaders, peoples, and governments. My mission was also to seek means to restore bilateral relations to their previous level and to revive all bilateral agreements, which cover all trade, economic, cultural, health, aviation, and shipping.

[Al-Naqqadh] Was the mission confined to bilateral relations?

[Al-Dali] No, it went beyond that to discuss current developments in both Arab and international affairs, including those which affect bilateral relations.

[Al-Naqqash] To what extent was the mission a success?

[Al-Dali] It was successful by any standard. I am greatly satisfied with my talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and the friendly meeting with President Mubarak, to whom I conveyed a message from Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium. This message also falls within the framework of bilateral relations and matters linked to them.

[Al-Naqqash] How do you view the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]?

[Al-Dali] We made our position clear when we supported its establishment as being an great step in inter-Arab cooperation aimed to overcome Arab disunity with formulas that we hope will provide a model for future joint Arab action. We also hope that positive results will be reflected on all countries, especially since the northern part of Yemen is a party to the ACC. We hope it will play a positive role in enhancing unionist steps between the two parts of Yemen in the quest to restore Yemeni unity through peaceful and democratic means.

[Al-Naqqash] Did you discuss in Cairo the reasons you were excluded from ACC membership?

[Al-Dali] Actually, we did not ask why we are out of the ACC. We do not consider this an exclusion of us. Rather, we consider the time was not appropriate for admitting new members. However, the ACC left the door open for new members.

[Al-Naqqash] Did you make a request to join it?

[Al-Dali] I was told in Cairo that the door is open for any Arab state to join the ACC. However, we have made no request so far.

[Al-Naqqash] Why?

[Al-Dali] We are studying the move with great care. We do not disagree with the objectives declared by the ACC, but we believe it is useful to give the founding members a period of time to complete the foundation stage.

[Al-Naqqash] Some observers say that the ACC is a security grouping, not an economic one. What do you say?

[Al-Dali] We rely on what the ACC members themselves say. They affirm that it is an economic grouping with a pan-Arab dimension and serves the objectives of the Arab League.

[Al-Naqqash] What new steps are there toward unifying both parts of the Yemen?

[Al-Dali] Following a period of discontinuity, the joint ministerial committee between the two parts resumed its sessions under the prime ministers of both parts. This is an important step on the path of convening the Supreme Yemeni Council. The meeting discussed a number of unity steps, which were agreed upon.

As for certain other steps, they were referred to the Supreme Yemeni Council, which we expect to be convened soon to resolve a number of outstanding issues to achieve the objective of all Yemenis—unity. What makes us optimistic is that there is a common understanding of the need to overcome all obstacles in the way of unity, considering that what cannot be achieved now may be achieved in the future. [passage omitted]

[Al-Naqqash] There are some who are surprised by the strengthening of relations between the PDRY, which is a socialist state, and the Gulf states, which are not. What is your opinion on that?

[Al-Dali] Simply, there is no contradiction in the existence of relations among states with different philosophies. We, as a country heading toward socialism, do not see any contradiction in establishing relations with all countries, even the capitalist ones, provided they respect international norms, which call for no intervention in internal affairs and for respecting the right of peoples to choose the systems they want to represent them, and which reject the idea of exporting experiences and interfering by force against the people's will.

When regimes stop intervening in each other's domestic affairs, the contradiction will disappear. So, let the Arab scene be an arena for all experiences in which each side will prove the supremacy of the system he adopts, the peoples can choose, and the best will survive.

[Al-Naqqash] More than 3 years after the 13 January events, have their negative effects on the PDRY's foreign policy disappeared?

[Al-Dali] I can confidently say that the negative effects on foreign policy that accompanied 13 January have completely disappeared. Matters were not only restored to normal, but they even became better than they were before. Our relations have improved not only with our neighbors, but we have established new relations, which did not exist before, with different countries on various continents.

The PDRY's role within the framework of the Arab League, the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Conference Organization, and various international organizations and bodies did not fall back. This proves that we have already transcended the negative effects of what took place to carry out our foreign policy, which aims to create peaceful conditions and relations of cooperation and rejects intervention in domestic affairs and destruction of national policy. These principles met with great success in the past 2 years. [passage omitted]

[Al-Naqqash] How true are the reports about a reconciliation with the [former PDRY President] 'Ali Nasir Muhammad group?

[Al-Dali] They are totally unfounded. All that happened was that an amnesty was granted to 35 convicted persons, who did not include 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. We are trying very hard to remove what remained of the 13 January effects and to facilitate the return of the groups

that were deceived by him and forced to move outside the homeland. But, to say that this is a reconciliation with 'Ali Nasir Muhammad is definitely untrue.

Minister Receives Soviet Ambassador 10 May

EA1105080189 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Brother Abd al-Qawi Muthanna Hadi, member of the Central Committee and minister of installations and housing, received in his office this morning Comrade Albert Rachkov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet ambassador in Aden, with whom he discussed relations and cooperation between the two friendly countries in the fields of installations and housing and ways of developing them.

United Arab Emirates

Paper on U.S. 'Threat' To Halt PLO Dialogue

JN1105163489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 10 May 89 p 1

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The U.S. stand regarding the State of Palestine poses a specific question of profound significance: Is the struggle being waged against the Palestinians and their recently proclaimed state by the Israeli enemy less ferocious than the struggle being waged against them and their state by other parties, led by the United States?

It has become clear that the United States lacks a sense of justice, has chosen to be unfair, and neither intends nor desires to see the need for superpowers to heed justice, even if this were to be minimal, and to avoid the pursuit of arbitrary policies.

We cannot understand the meaning of the U.S. threat to stop the dialogue with the PLO, a step taken by the United States some months ago. Do superpowers reverse their policies so quickly? Where is the credibility in this? And where are the principles of right and justice here?

While posing these questions, we particularly recall statements made to U.S. officials by his highness the president last year, including a statement made during a meeting held on 25 May 1988 with Vernon Walters, envoy of the U.S. President and U.S. delegate at the United Nations, at the time. In that statement, the Arab leader told Walters in all honesty and frankness that the United States must support right and justice.

He also called on the United States to take a decisive stand that would help restore the rights to their rightful owners. During that meeting, his highness the president said: "The Arabs are awaiting the emergence of this stand right now. If the rights are not restored to their rightful owners, the Arab states would have no choice but to confront the enemy."

This took place approximately 1 year ago. The U.S. decision to open a dialogue with the PLO was a step forward. Now, threatening to retreat and stop this dialogue is two steps backward.

Shamir Discharged From Hospital, Returns Home
TA1205063189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was discharged from Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem this morning and returned home. This was reported by our correspondent Rina Matzliah.

Unilateral Announcement of Elections Foreseen
TA1105160389 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 May 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Within the next few days, immediately after the Cabinet approves Yitzhaq Shamir's plan, Israel will start unilateral preparations for elections in the territories, without awaiting Palestinian approval. As soon as the preparations are completed and after notifying the United States, Israel will announce the date of the elections, senior government sources told MA'ARIV.

Preparation for the elections and the decision on who is eligible to vote and be elected will be entrusted to the office of the coordinator of activities in the territories. The source of authority for the autonomy will be the military government, which will issue a special decree to this effect.

Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of activities in the territories, said yesterday that he had not yet received any political instructions to start the process, and was awaiting the government's decision.

In a bid to attain the Cabinet's approval to specifics pertaining to the elections, the four-minister forum, made up of Shamir, Rabin, Peres, and Arens, will in their next session finalize a document in principle about the four-point plan presented by Shamir. Officials in the Prime Minister's Office emphasized that the purpose of the elections is to "launch" the phased course that would lead to negotiations on the transitional agreement and be a trial period during which lessons would be drawn with a view to drafting the script of the negotiations on the final agreement and determining a position on the status of the territories.

In their meeting, the four ministers are to decide whether the representatives to be elected would also conduct negotiations for the Palestinian side on a comprehensive agreement or whether their role would be limited to the transitional agreement only.

The four senior ministers agree that the logic of the Camp David accords should be upheld and past attitudes must be set aside, notwithstanding the fact that the agreements reached 10 years ago are no longer relevant.

Meanwhile, in anticipation of the debates in the four-minister forum and the Cabinet, the committees set up in the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry continue to work on position papers dealing with questions pertaining to the nature of the elections (whether they are to be municipal, regional, or all-regional [klal-ezoriyot]); who would be eligible to elect and be elected; which inhabitants of Jerusalem would be allowed to vote and be elected (the intention is to distinguish between Palestinians who registered in 1967 and those who immigrated to Jerusalem after the 6-Day War to work there); and how many people would be elected, and whether they would also administer the autonomy or would only conduct the talks.

The position papers prepared in anticipation of the Cabinet debate discuss at length the question of law and the judiciary. The intention is to set forth restrictions that would deprive members of nationalist Palestinian organizations, such as the PLO, not just of the right to elect and be elected, but also of the right to announce that they are members of these organizations after the elections are held.

The position papers have been submitted to Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, who is in charge of consolidating a unanimous position and of coordinating with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The detailed Israeli plan will be presented in their upcoming visit to Washington by Rabin and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, and the intention is to conclude the deliberations and the Cabinet's approval before that.

Defense establishment officials believe that a link must be established between the transitional and the final arrangements with regard to the eastern front. They believe that the preparation of elections concerning this issue requires at least 6 months, at the end of which the representatives would be elected and discussions would start on the establishment of autonomy.

Official sources in Washington last night said they know nothing about an Israeli intention to announce elections in the territories unilaterally, adding that in any event, no such information had been officially relayed to the U.S. Administration.

Arens: No Differences With U.S. on Plan
TA1205050889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] A high-level U.S. delegation arrives tomorrow in Israel to discuss Prime Minister Shamir's peace plan and the modalities of elections. Yesterday there were press reports of serious differences between the U.S. and Israeli positions following the leak of a letter to Prime Minister Shamir from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

According to the reports, the differences centered on the participation of East Jerusalem Arabs, as well as Palestinians no longer residing in the territories, in the elections. Last night, reporters asked Foreign Minister Arens for his reaction to the Baker letter.

[Begin recording] [Arens] I doubt that you have read Mr Baker's letter. I happened to have read it and I don't see any points of difference at this stage of the game. I think we are exchanging views on a subject that is of great importance to Israel, and also of importance to the United States.

[Unidentified correspondent] How do you see the East Jerusalem issue working out?

[Arens] Well, it's something that we are going to think about. I don't think it would be appropriate for me to present my own personal opinions. This is going to be a government decision, and when the government has taken a position I will present it.

[Correspondent] Can I ask you for your view about Minister Qatzav's idea about closing the territories for 3 months.

[Arens] Well, I have not yet spoken to Minister Qatzav. I would like to hear that personally before I express my views. [end recording]

Baker Letter Cited in Dispute

TA1205080489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 May 89 pp 1, 16

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpts] Both Prime Minister Shamir and Defence Minister Rabin adamantly oppose a U.S. suggestion that Palestinians outside the territories be allowed to participate in the proposed elections in the West Bank and Gaza, well-placed sources said last night.

In his letter on the elections sent to Foreign Minister Arens 10 days ago, Secretary of State James Baker wrote: "The question of outside involvement also extends to the participation in elections of some Palestinians no longer living in the West Bank and Gaza.

"Addressing this problem in a creative way might strengthen the election package and make it more attractive to Palestinians."

Sources close to both Shamir and Rabin strongly rebuffed Baker's suggestion, and expressed the hope that it would not feature in the upcoming U.S.-Israeli dialogue on the elections. They said that Baker was obviously referring to Palestinians who would be able to stand as candidates.

"It's plainly a way of getting the PLO into the elections," one official said. [passage omitted]

Contrary to earlier reports on Baker's letter, the secretary did not mention the "peace for territories" formula in his remarks on the final settlement. Baker wrote that "we need to ensure that the elections become part of an ongoing process that extends through interim arrangements to negotiations on the final status."

Baker also cited Shamir's statements in Washington, which "indicated clearly Israeli expectations" that negotiations on the final status would indeed take place.

Other points in Baker's letter included the following:—"Some way must be found to permit East Jerusalem residents the opportunity to participate" in the elections.—Free and unrestricted access "for the media and observers and experts from abroad who might want to certify the results" must be guaranteed.—Israel must also assure freedom of assembly and freedom of speech in the election campaign.—All Palestinians in the territories must be granted the right to vote and be elected, with appropriate "provisions against criminals convicted in court of serious crime."

Officials said last night that this U.S. position could create difficulties in cases involving Palestinians who are being, or have been, held in administrative detention, since they have not been convicted in court.—Israel must work for the creation of an orderly environment in which political activity can be conducted freely and without intimidation and violence.

Peres: Election Plan 'Radical Change' in Shamir

TA1205064989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 May 89 p A1

[Report by Ilan Shehori and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Labor Party ministers last night decided, at the conclusion of a 3-hour discussion, to support the election plan for the territories at the next Cabinet meeting. All Labor Party ministers, including Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres—except for Ministers 'Ezer Weizman and Rafi 'Edri, and Deputy Minister Yosi Beilin—supported the Shamir plan. At the meeting, it was disclosed that the forum of four—Shamir, Rabin, Arens, and Peres—drafted a political document based on the Shamir election proposal, which it will present to the Cabinet.

Peres told the meeting that the document worked out with Likud leaders should be supported. In his words, the plan expresses a radical change in Shamir's thinking. "We have to pass the first stage, and then see how things develop," Peres said. [passage omitted]

Peres: Plan 'Reasonable'

TA1205061189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 12 May 89

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, Labor Party chairman and vice prime minister, by Shalom Qital on 12 May—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Mr Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Qital] So that is that. The Shamir plan is acceptable to you and your colleagues?

[Peres] As far as elections in the territories go, the Labor ministers already voted on this in October of last year. As you know, the suggestion to hold elections in the territories was included in the plan we formed before the general elections for the Knesset. Thus, there is nothing surprising about the fact that nearly all of the Labor ministers support this issue.

[Qital] There are also two who oppose it, Weizman and Edri.

[Peres] That is natural in a democratic party.

[Qital] Yes. Now, Mr Peres, you are quoted in the newspapers as saying that Yitzhaq Shamir has undergone a radical change, perhaps you used a different expression, but a drastic change. Is this how you feel about Shamir?

[Peres] First of all, I never made this statement, and I have no idea where you got it.

[Qital] So I am asking you now...

[Peres, interrupting] No, I am not willing to make personal observations. I do not think we are discussing individuals. We are discussing plans.

It has been completely clear that from the moment Jordan removed itself, at least for the current stage, from the chance for negotiating the future of the territories and resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, only the Palestinians are left. Now it is clear that it is advisable to have an organized Palestinian addressee that authentically represents the residents of the territories. That is why the suggestion to hold elections appeared to be the right alternative for us at the end of last year, and this is still true today.

[Qital] You talk about the Palestinians. There are those who say that the Palestinians are the PLO—only the PLO.

[Peres] Look, the PLO is an organization. The Palestinians are a people. The Palestinian people [last three words in English] as it is written. The Arab Palestinians. I do not see why we have to recognize an organization—that, by the way, was never elected—rather than let the Palestinians choose their representatives. I do not understand the insistence on this even by some democratic countries. I am going to raise these issues in my talks with the Europeans.

If Israel were to say: We do not recognize the Palestinians, we turn our back on them... [changes thought] But I find it a little strange that there is an attempt to pressure Israel to recognize an organization that has not, by the way, ceased violent and terrorist activities when Israel says it is willing to negotiate with the Palestinians themselves. In addition to this, what is the PLO?

If the PLO is an idea, we cannot disqualify ideas. If the PLO is terror, then we cannot accept it. But we should not become confused. Then, of course, there is the possibility of holding talks with the Palestinians in the wide sense of the word, say with Palestinians throughout the world. We would certainly agree with this if a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation were set up. We would hold talks with Jordan, which has Palestinians living in its territory, and with the Palestinians in the territories.

The PLO cannot replace Jordan. Besides, they have also injected the issue of the right of return. These are the reasons why, in my opinion, the proposal currently suggested is reasonable and fair.

[Qital] The question is whether it can be implemented, whether it can lead us forward.

[Peres] We will just have to wait and see. But it is clear that the main objective of the current move is to achieve two things: To find a party for negotiations, and then to start negotiating. I do not think that we can arrive at an accord at the present time, as much as we want to, on the nature of the permanent agreement. It is too early. What we must arrive at now is a stage of negotiations with an authorized party acceptable to the Palestinians.

[Qital] Now I have discovered a pattern of complete agreement between you and the prime minister. I interviewed him on Independence Day and that is exactly what he said: Not a final solution but...

[Peres, interrupting] I never said: Not a final solution. No, no, just a minute...

[Qital, interrupting] Not to decide the final arrangements now.

[Peres] No, I do not say not to decide. I have an idea about the permanent agreement, and I stick to it. I think that someone who says that we do not have to hold on to all of the territories, but rather that we have to give them up, does not say this because he wants to curry favor

among the Palestinians. We say this because we want to guarantee the Jewish nature of the state. There is a limit to how far democracy can carry such a large demographic division.

That is why our ideas are not concepts that stem from positions held by the other side. They are opinions flowing from our Zionist vision and the desire to achieve peace. This has remained unchanged since the state's establishment. I was for such a solution then—I went with Ben-Gurion 41 years ago—and I have not changed my mind much on this matter.

[Qital] Thank you, Mr Peres.

Labor Backs Shamir, 'Forum of Four' Plans
TA1205051189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Labor Party ministers have come out in support of the peace plan of Prime Minister Shamir and the plan being formulated by the forum of four that also includes Defense Minister Rabin, Vice Premier Peres, and Foreign Minister Arens.

The decision was taken last night at the Labor ministers' weekly meeting. The forum of four plan is expected to be disclosed to the Cabinet on Sunday.

Shamir Satisfied With Support
TA1205094089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has decided to dedicate the Cabinet meeting on Sunday to a discussion of the peace initiative. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Mr Shamir has ordered a meeting of Likud ministers in his office tomorrow evening to go over matters preparatory to the Cabinet meeting.

The prime minister received with satisfaction the decision of the Labor Party ministers to support his initiative.

This morning the prime minister met with Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, and with Justice Minister Dan Meridor. They studied the final draft of the peace initiative, whose text has been completed.

U.S. President George Bush sent a cable this morning to the prime minister with wishes for good health.

The prime minister will depart for a visit to Britain and Spain in 10 days as planned.

Shamir Plan Seen Causing Rifts in Parties
TA1205104189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 May 89 pp 4, 15

[Commentary by Dan Petreanu: "Shamir-Rabin—The Only Game in Town"]

[Excerpt] As the Shamir-Rabin plan for the territories gains recognition—both inside and outside Israel—as the only game in town, Prime Minister Shamir and Defence Minister Rabin are gathering political strength in their own parties. In the Likud, the process is mainly significant for Shamir's designated successors, who are the only ones who have been allowed by the prime minister to partake in the diplomatic moves. This strategy has deepened the rift between Shamir's group and the other Likud leaders.

In Labour, the developments that brought Rabin to diplomatic dominance are casting a giant shadow on the leadership battle expected next year. While Rabin has steadfastly refused to address the issue, in the eyes of many—if not most—in the party, he is already the prime challenger to Peres. This, in spite of the declared candidacies of other Labour ministers—and perhaps *because* [italics as published] of their lacklustre quality.

Meanwhile, politicians from the left and the right are asking themselves the same questions: how far is the prime minister really prepared to take the process? Is he sincere in embarking upon what many feel is a course that may lead to territorial concessions?

Shim'on Peres finds himself in the kind of no-win situation that for him has characterized the past year. If the Labour leader comes out against the plan or expresses any doubt about the prime minister's sincerity, he exposes himself to the charge that he is sabotaging Shamir out of political motivations; furthermore, he would also deepen the rift with Rabin—which, despite their historic rivalry, neither wants at this point.

Peres has understood that the unity government is now weakening his position in the party and strengthening Rabin. The government is the product of Rabin's logic—it was Rabin who first appeared on TV and argued in favour of "giving the Likud a chance to run foreign policy."

The diplomatic plan it is pursuing is also based on Rabin's thinking. As a result, Rabin, who since 1984 has been very visible and popular as defence minister, has now apparently supplanted Peres as Labour's diplomatic catalyst as well.

This, while Peres has been relegated to the lacklustre and thankless role of finance minister—which has, in effect, in the public's eye turned him into the representative of

Labour's maligned "partisan economy." In public appearances, instead of defending the international conference, Peres now defends his efforts to rescue the kibbutzim, moshavim and the ailing Histadrut companies.

Has Peres given up on the idea of the international conference? At Labour's "day of reckoning" last month, several speakers charged that the party's campaign had erred in focusing on this procedural issue—that turned out to be an electoral loser—and on the moribund Jordanian option. And yet, it would appear that Peres, given half a chance, would revive both of these currently dormant crusades.

In recent private conversations, Peres has expressed pessimism regarding the viability of the Shamir-Rabin plan. Despite being a co-author, along with Rabin, of the peace plan presented during Labour's campaign, whose initial stages bear a remarkable resemblance to the current plan, Peres has concluded that "there is no Arab partner" to the multi-stage plan. Instead, he proposes a one-stage plan, which would bypass the now-fashionable interim stage of autonomy and immediately launch into negotiations towards the terms of Israel's withdrawal from parts of the territories.

Peres knows that such a plan would mean the end of the unity government. But then, the unity government—which initially served to delay revolution in the Labour party—is, as mentioned, no longer politically advantageous for Peres. Many in the party believe that Peres' best chance of surviving as Labour leader would be to bolt the government before the party convention next year, in which a battle for his post appears inevitable.

A Rabin candidacy at the convention would play havoc with the shadow campaigns of declared candidates Moshe Shahal, Mordekhay Gur and Gad Ya'aqobi. One of them has already privately stated that he would withdraw from the race, adding that he believed the others would so as well—and they might even jockey against each other to forge an alliance with Rabin and become his designated successor. While few in the party desire a return to the days of the Rabin-Peres rivalry—more and more are becoming convinced that the development is likely.

For now, however, Peres is keeping a low profile and waiting for the Shamir-Rabin plan to prove itself a non-starter. In this week's meeting of "the forum of four"—Shamir, Rabin, Peres and Foreign Minister Arens—Peres did not attack the plan, and afterwards Arens announced that consensus among the four was attainable.

Labour's doves, along with members of other left-wing parties, are split on how to react to the plan—depending on the degree to which they trust Shamir. Almost all agree that the participation of East Jerusalem (the residence of virtually all the local Palestinian leaders) in the process is the key—and that Shamir understands that without this key the doors to the process will remain locked. While Rabin favours the participation of East Jerusalem, Shamir announced this week that he is opposed.

Most of the Labour Party doves—Avraham Burg, Hayim Ramon and others—believe that Shamir will not give in on this issue and will allow the process to collapse. Shamir's goal, they say, is to secure Labour's endorsement of a plan which is intended to win time—but go nowhere.

But since—like Peres—they want to avoid appearing as saboteurs, this suspicion has not been translated into public attacks on the plan. The only public evidence of their mood has been Yosi Beilin's warning to his party's ministers to resist pressure by Rabin to bring a "half baked" version of the plan—one that doesn't answer the questions of East Jerusalem and linkage between the two stages of the settlement—to a vote in the government.

However, if these issues were resolved—and Shamir proven sincere—there would be a very wide consensus among the doves—and in the other left-wing parties as well—in favour of the plan. The Citizen Rights Movement's Yosi Sarid says this is because Israel has entered "an age of realism."

Sarid says that most of the country's politicians "have accepted three things: that there won't be an international conference; that Shamir will not sit down with 'Arafat tomorrow; and that after 21 years of occupation and 100 years of conflict, Israel will not withdraw to the'67 lines tomorrow, and therefore the settlement will have to be implemented in stages."

Outside of Labour, the suspicion of Shamir is less acute, and therefore satisfaction with the plan more widespread. Sarid attributes this to "Labour's psychological difficulty in accepting that the Likud, again, is leading a process that will bring peace."

The satisfaction of the left is the nightmare of the right, which has taken up political arms to fight off the perceived crack in the "national camp." But in the Likud itself, much of the uproar has to do with frustration at the monopolization of power by the Shamir-Arens camp.

While Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i—a primary critic of the Shamir plan—vehemently denies that his attacks on Shamir are politically motivated, there is an unmistakable chord of personal frustration in his voice when he laments Shamir's "secret diplomacy."

"What kind of democracy is this?" laments Moda'i, referring to the fact that one month after its ceremonious unveiling in Washington, the plan has still not been brought to a full discussion before the government. The

only people Shamir has included in deliberations over his plan have been his closest advisers, Arens, and the three new, young Likud ministers: Dan Meridor, Ehud Olmert and Roni Milo.

The very inclusion of these three in the government at the expense of more veteran Sharon and Levi allies (and Liberals) caused consternation in Likud circles. Now, the monopoly that the Shamir-Arens "inner circle" commands over vital diplomatic affairs has raised tensions in the Likud to heights unknown since the days of the Shamir-Levi and Shamir-Sharon leadership battles.

It is therefore not surprising that the ministerial opposition to Shamir's proposals is led by the troika of frustrated would-be Likud leaders who have been largely dispatched by Shamir to the diplomatic sidelines: Moda'i, Ari'el Sharon, and David Levi.

Sharon and Moda'i have joined forces with the extreme right, which has reacted to Shamir's initiative with alarm. The extreme right, from Kakh and Moledet to the Tehiya, believe that Shamir has joined the "defeatist" camp and is about to follow Begin's "betrayal" in returning Sinai to Egypt with an even more shocking capitulation in Judaea and Samaria.

The more "mainstream" brand of right-wing opposition is represented by Shamir opponents from within the Likud, such as Mikha'el Eytan and Tzahi Hanegbi. In near-weekly meetings, this group is struggling with the question of how best to guarantee that Shamir will not be manipulated into concessions. Shamir, they say, may be underestimating the power of the process—whose dynamics may carry him much further than he wants to go.

This group—along with Moda'i and Sharon—have latched onto two points which they seek to turn into major stumbling blocks in the implementation of the plan. The first is staunch opposition to the participation of East Jerusalem Arabs in the elections by Shamir, which they see as a challenge to Israel's annexation of the area.

The second is the call—issued loudest by Sharon, who has made it his cause celebre—that the intifadah [uprising] must be put down before any diplomatic process begins. This demand received meek backing from Arens this week, when he said that he "didn't suppose elections could be held in an atmosphere of violence."

"That's not enough," snapped Moda'i.

Sharon, who as chairman of the party's central committee can convene it almost at will, has added fuel to the fire by calling for a meeting of the committee, which will probably be held in about a week to 10 days—around the time Arens and Rabin are scheduled to visit the U.S. with a more detailed draft of the plan.

The meeting could be a replay of the tense drama from December, when the committee was called upon to approve Shamir's formation of the unity government with Labour. If Shamir does not adopt a hard line on the issues of Jerusalem and the intifadah, warns Moda'i, the committee will reject his plan "out of hand." [passage omitted]

Shahal Tells UK's Howe 'Impartial' Help Welcome
TA1205052789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Britain has proposed that it mediate between Israel and the Arabs in a search for a solution to the Middle East conflict. The offer was made by British Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, when he met visiting Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal in London yesterday. Over to Jerry Lewis in London:

[Begin recording] [Lewis] Sir Geoffrey Howe offered British mediation between Israel and the Arab side during a brief meeting with Israel's Energy Minister Moshe Shahal yesterday. He said that Britain wanted to take part in a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and he evidently stressed not only British obligations to Israel's security, but also what he termed the very positive position of British Premier Margaret Thatcher concerning Israel's security needs. Moshe Shahal welcomed the offer, but not without a couple of caveats.

[Shahal] We would welcome any help from any party if the policy will be impartial, if it will be based on objectivity.

[Lewis] And in case Sir Geoffrey Howe was in any doubt as to Israeli concerns over British objectivity, the Israeli energy minister clearly spelled it out for his host.

[Shahal] It doesn't help when European officials and British ministers are meeting with 'Arafat without any precondition.

[Lewis] However, despite Sir Geoffrey Howe's declining to give any indication that he might be meeting Yasir 'Arafat soon, Minister Shahal got the impression that whilst there was no definite time or place for such a meeting, it certainly could not be ruled out in the future. During Mr Shahal's meeting with his British counterpart, Energy Secretary Cecil Parkinson, the two discussed future research and development projects between the two countries.

Mr Shahal later announced that Mr Parkinson had accepted an invitation to visit Israel in the late summer, a visit that will be made all the more interesting as speculation increases he is the man most likely to become Britain's next foreign secretary, possible as early as this coming autumn. [end recording]

Qatzav Proposes 3-Month Closure of Territories

TA1105175289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 May 89 p 1

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Transport Minister Moshe Qatzav yesterday put forward his prescription for ending the intifadah [uprising]: close the territories for three months, ban movement of Palestinian labourers to Israel, and bar the media from the areas while deploying troops massively so as to put an end to the Arab riots.

Qatzav made the remarks yesterday at the settlement of Ari'el, where he was given honorary citizenship. Qatzav charged that "the Arabs from Judaea, Samaria and Gaza are trying to undermine the internal security of Israel by kidnapping soldiers and children, and murdering them."

Qatzav said he would propose a closure of the territories from July to September, during which time Palestinians would be prevented from working in Israel. The gap would be filled by 70,000 Israeli jobseekers and high-school students, who would join the work-force.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 11 May broadcasts an interview with Minister Qatzav. Answering a question about the feasibility of his proposal and whether it enjoys government support, he says: "I do not know the position and attitude of my colleagues. I believe the defense establishment should deal with this plan, but if it rejects it I will definitely not lobby for it, and I will drop it. The plan calls chiefly for the defense establishment's approval, and I will not fight for it in the Cabinet if the defense minister objects to it."]

'Uprising' Leadership Accused of Embezzlement

TA1205093489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 May 89 p 2

[ITIM Report]

[Text] Tension is running high in the underground leadership of the uprising over charges of corruption in the distribution of PLO funds sent from Jordan to support the intifadah [uprising], the Arab sources in East Jerusalem said yesterday.

A leaflet signed by the "Palestinian Popular Army" said PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat had dispatched a team to Jordan to investigate how millions of dollars earmarked for the uprising had disappeared. The leaflet lists names of persons who allegedly embezzled funds, including the deported mayor of Halhul, Muhammad Milhim.

The leaflet charges that Fatah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the territories had received $200,000 each, to be shared with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Palestine Communist Party, but had chosen to keep the funds to themselves.

Declaration Condemns Report

TA1205100689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 May 89 p 4

[Excerpt] An unusual declaration was circulated this week in East Jerusalem by Palestinian public figures.

Signed by "national figures and institutions in the State of Palestine," the statement condemned Israeli media reports on court documents implicating Bi'r Zayt professor Sari Nusaybah and the head of the Arab Journalists Association, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, in the transfer of funds for the uprising and the writing of underground leaflets.

The declaration blames the Israeli media for "circulating fabricated reports, which are nothing more than lies and deceptions, to incite against several well-known nationalist Palestinians in the territories, spread discord among the inhabitants, and distract attention from the real challenges they face."

The statement reflected the consternation among East Jerusalem "salon" activists over allegations appearing in indictments submitted this month at the Lod military court against several Palestinians accused of membership in the "Unified National Leadership of the Uprising," and working on its behalf. The Palestinians include journalists Sam'an Khuri, who formerly worked with AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE; Hasan 'Abd-Ghabbur, formerly of AL-'AWDAH magazine and the Palestine Press Service; and Hamza Samadi, who operates the Holyland Media office with Nusaybah.

Nusaybah and Abu 'Ayyash have not been indicted themselves, but have nonetheless been implicated in the activities of those who have been charged. The mention of Nusaybah and Abu'-Ayyash in the charge sheets marks the first time well-known Palestinian leaders in East Jerusalem have been publicly implicated, in a court document, in uprising activities.

The two men, known as leading moderate PLO supporters, have a long record of contacts with prominent Israelis and foreign diplomats, and enjoy a close relationship with both the local and foreign press. They have publicly expressed their support for the uprising and its political aims, but have carefully avoided associating themselves with its underground leadership.

Nusaybah has expressed "shock" at the accusation against him, which he said gave him more importance than he deserved. He describes himself as an "observer" of the uprising, nothing more.

The authorities have avoided arresting Nusaybah and Abu-'Ayyash despite their alleged involvement in uprising activities. According to persistent reports, this is a deliberate move to avoid neutralizing prominent Palestinians who are expected to figure prominently in any Israeli election plan or other political initiative in the

territories. Though the activists named in the charge sheets were arrested in March and February, no move was taken against Nusaybah and Abu-'Ayyash at that time, prior to Prime Minister Shamir's trip to Washington, where he presented his initiative for elections in the territories.

The decision to spare Nusaybah and Abu-'Ayyash, according to these accounts, is part of a deliberate policy to promote a local Palestinian leadership as a partner for dialogue, instead of the PLO. The release of activist Faysal al-Husayni from prison, granting him permission to travel abroad, and the series of meeting between Civil Administration officers and leading Palestinian activists are all part of the policy of promoting local leaders, enunciated by Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The policy, however, is reported to have exposed Nusaybah and Abu-'Ayyash to suspicion in some Palestinian circles. The fact that they are being left untouched and allowed to travel, while their colleagues sit in jail, has reportedly led to whispers that they are somehow in cahoots with the authorities, partners in an Israeli scheme to promote an "alternative leadership" to the PLO.

The "kid-glove" treatment by the authorities may have compromised the position of Nusaybah and Abu-'Ayyash, even though they have not asked for such treatment, and are perhaps being set up by Israel, against their will, as alternative local leaders. The angry statement issued this week by the "national figures" should be seen as an attempt by Nusaybah and Abu-'Ayyash to clear their name, and wriggle out of the uncomfortable Israeli bear-hug. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Official Leaves for U.S.

TA1105170789 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 May 89 p 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Re'uven Merhav, director general of the Foreign Ministry, left for New York last night on a political mission. He will confer with UN Secretary Perez de Cuellar to discuss the situation in Lebanon and issues related to UNIFIL's [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] activities in the buffer strip in south Lebanon.

During his visit, Merhav will meet U.S. Administration officials to discuss Shamir's political plan. Merhav heads two of the committees set up by the Foreign Ministry to formulate the specifics of the plan. The Foreign Ministry's supreme appointments committee has decided on a series of high-level appointments: Dr Ya'aqov Kohen, former ambassador to Japan, has been appointed assistant director general for economic affairs, replacing Yitzhaq Minervi; and David Sultan has been appointed assistant director general for Middle East affairs, replacing Yitzhaq Li'or.

Change in Deportation Laws Being Considered

TA1105152889 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 May 89 p 6

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] The defense establishment will initiate changes in legislation aimed at enabling deportations of Palestinians from the territories while avoiding friction with the judicial system—if the uprising becomes exacerbated or if the residents of the territories reject the government's elections plan.

'AL HAMISHMAR has learned from senior elements that in the framework of the plan to inflict harsher punishments on the residents of the territories, the defense establishment will focus on what they call "quality targets," namely, the chief coordinators of the uprising.

In addition, the defense system is considering increasing its use of administrative detentions and holding parents of stone throwers criminally responsible.

The defense minister has so far refrained from initiating changes in legislation in these matters. He has, however, hinted on more than one occasion that he would support such changes under certain circumstances. In an interview he gave 'AL HAMISHMAR on the eve of Independence Day, Rabin said that changes in legislation are definitely part of the measures taken to inflict harsher punishments in the territories.

Court Upholds Army's Authority To Destroy Houses

TA1105190089 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The High Court of Justice today upheld the Israeli army's authority to demolish houses in the territories in response to the hurling of firebombs, even if they do not cause any casualties or damage. Consequently, the demolition of three houses and the sealing up of another house in the territories was approved today.

Our legal affairs correspondent Shlomo Arad points out that the High Court of Justice thus embraced a stricter approach to phenomena that become epidemic, such as the harassment of those suspected of collaborating with Israel or the throwing of firebombs.

Plan To Ban Entry of Criminals Considered

TA1105154889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The police affairs minister and the defense minister are formulating an arrangement according to which residents of the territories who have been convicted of serious crimes would be banned from crossing the Green Line. So far only those convicted of security crimes have been denied entry.

The arrangement was initiated by Minister Bar-Lev after the double murder on Yafo Street in Jerusalem. According to him, Minister Rabin tends to respond favorably to the proposition.

Officer Denies NEWSDAY Report on Gaza Incidents

TA1105164789 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 May 89 p A2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] In the wake of the U.S. newspaper report which quoted his comments on last Saturday's events in Gaza, Colonel Ra'anan Gissin, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] deputy spokesman, said: "I did not make the remarks attributed to me in NEWSDAY."

According to the report, the riots broke out as a result of a tragic mistake committed by an IDF unit that mistook an innocent religious procession marking the Muslim holiday for a violent demonstration. Col Gissin told his superior, Brigadier General Efrayim Lapid, the IDF spokesman, that he had not made such remarks and that the U.S. correspondent apparently misunderstood him. He added that he had spoken in a briefing to dozens of foreign journalists, and the fact is that except for her, nobody else quoted his remarks as she did.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

'Terrorist' Squad Uncovered

TA1105175489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] A Fatah terrorist squad was recently uncovered in the Jerusalem area. The members of the squad are suspected of having planted explosive charges in two bread loaves in two grocery stores in Jerusalem on Friday, 2 October 1988. The first bomb exploded in a shop on the corner of Shivte Yisra'el and Me'a She'arim Streets, slightly wounding three girls. The second bomb exploded that same morning in a shop in the Jewish Quarter, but nobody was hurt.

Our police affairs correspondent Shlomi Stein reports that one of the squad members went to Jordan where he learned how to contrive an explosive charge and received instructions from a Fatah man.

Settlers Attack Villages

TA1205103889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 May 89 p 1, 9

[Report by Joel Greenberg, Mikhal Sela', and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Ramallah police are investigating vandalism committed on Wednesday night at Baytin, which was blamed by villagers on settlers from neighbouring 'Ofra, who apparently retaliated after their cars were stoned. An ITIM reporter who visited the village saw two torched cars and smashed windows of cars and homes. Arab villagers said settlers whom they recognized arrived in two cars and rampaged for an hour, honking horns, shooting in the air and destroying property.

The police are also investigating vandalism at Ayn Yabrud, near 'Ofra, where arsonists torched a shop and tried to set fire to another store. Windows of the local mosque were smashed and several trees along a main road were cut down. Local Arabs said the damage was caused Monday night by Jews who arrived to protest against persistent attacks on their cars. Villagers said a curfew had been imposed after the incident, and lifted yesterday.

The chairman of the Mate Binyamin Regional Council, Pinhas Wallerstein, denied that 'Ofra residents were responsible for the vandalism, saying that the damage at Baytin could have been the result of an internal feud. He said the Jews had demonstrated peacefully at Ayn Yabrud and left the area when ordered out by soldiers. [passage omitted]

On Wednesday, security men raided the Dar al-Qaddarah press and translation office in Nabulus, confiscating books and literature considered inflammatory. Dar al-Qaddarah was formerly run by journalist Lu'ai 'Abduh, who was deported from the administered territories last August.

The Hebron police arrested a bus driver from the Al-Fawwar refugee camp on suspicion that he blocked a police van in the camp with his bus on Wednesday. The van was stoned and the policemen were compelled to shoot in the air until reinforcements arrived. The driver, Ahamd Abu Ravi'a, 26, is suspected of blocking an Israeli car at Al-Fawwar last month in similar fashion. The car was stoned and four passengers were injured.

The head of the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration, Tat-Aluf [Brigadier General] Yeshayahu Erez, met with Palestinian education department heads and examination officials to discuss possible reopening of schools in the West Bank and the holding of matriculation exams. Erez said he would consider requests to resume classes, provided that calm was ensured and the schools did not again become centres of unrest.

About 60 Jewish residents of Judaea yesterday drove at snail's pace along the area's twisting roads to press their demand for tougher government action against rioting Arabs.

Waving large national flags, they set out from Qiryat Arba', passed Halhul and several refugee camps and reached Jerusalem in the evening. After praying at the Western Wall, the group set out for Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem and Bet Haggay south of Hebron. Soldiers accompanied the convoy and no trouble was reported by press time.

Meanwhile, Gush Emunim warned the government of a "massive Jewish outburst" unless the intifadah [uprising] is quelled.

It urged the government to reject U.S. pressure.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 12 May adds that "the army sealed up three rooms in the Jabalyah refugee camp in Gaza. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that three rooms were inhabited by terrorists who attacked an IDF post.

In the Zaytun neighbourhood in Gaza, the security forces destroyed a structure used by a terrorist who attacked soldiers."]

1 Killed, 3 Hurt in Gaza

TA1205050089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 12 May 89

[Excerpts] An Arab youth was killed yesterday in Gaza and three people were wounded in a clash with troops. Earlier, an Arab teenager was killed in Hebron. In East Jerusalem, security forces have uncovered a terrorist cell suspected of planting bombs in the capital last October. Shlomo Berger reports:

In a clash yesterday in Gaza's Al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood, 17-year-old Hamd Jadallah was shot and died later of his wounds. The army spokesman said the youth was shot in the knee, but died from loss of blood because he was not taken immediately to the hospital. Reports from Gaza say nine people were wounded yesterday in clashes with troops. The entire Gaza Strip will remain under curfew again today. The curfew was imposed Monday night ahead of Israeli Independence Day. [passage omitted]

In Nabulus yesterday, security forces searched offices of the Red Crescent Society. They confiscated literature, including instructions for making bombs and for weapons training. Red Crescent officials were summoned to the Military Government. [passage omitted]

Bomb Defused Near Ramallah

TA1205111789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] A homemade bomb was uncovered this morning by an Israeli army patrol near the village of Silwad in the Ramallah District. The bomb was safely defused by a bomb disposal expert.

Foreign Ministry Official Cited on Iraq Visit

JN1105095189 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11-12 May 89 pp 1, 2

[By Raniyah 'Atallah]

[Excerpt] Regional inter-Arab consultations ahead of a proposed Arab summit witnessed another high point Wednesday with his Majesty King Husayn holding talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in Baghdad on coordination among the four members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and other Arab issues.

"The King's visit is of special importance because it comes prior to both the ACC and Arab summits and follows (Egyptian) President Husni Mubarak's visit to Jordan yesterday," a Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

The official, who spoke to the JORDAN TIMES, on condition of anonimity, said although King Husayn and the Iraqi President were not "seeking something urgent" from the meeting, such a round of consultations should be seen in the context of "intensified contacts" among ACC leaders.

The ACC, which was formed in Baghdad Feb. 16, groups Jordan with Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen with a declared aim of economic integration.

The Jordan News Agency, PETRA, said the King's talks with the Iraqi leader covered a number of Arab issues.

The King, who was accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Nur, also paid condolences to the Iraqi president on the death of Iraqi Defence Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah, in a helicopter crash last week, PETRA said. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Announces Detainees' Release

JN1205071589 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 May 89 p 1

[Excerpt] Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, has announced that in implementation of His Majesty King Husayn's directives, all those detained in the recent regrettable incidents have been released.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, Masa'idah said that 55 persons were released yesterday.

He said there are no more detainees in connection with the recent incidents. [passage omitted]

Crown Prince Hasan Discusses Economy, Riots

PM0805130189 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 3-8 May 89 pp 13-15

[Report on interview with Crown Prince Hasan by Nadim Nasir in Amman "after calm was restored"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan feels very sad when he talks about the Arab part in the Jordanian economic crisis. In his office at the Jordanian Royal Court Prince Hasan spoke to AL-MAJALLAH about the background to the economic formula.

He said that the volume of trade exchange between the Arab states is no more than 2.3 percent of the value of their exports and imports. The crown prince wondered about the reality of Arab integration and past commitments. He said:

"In view of what we have heard from Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Gulf officials over the past days, we obviously hope to reach agreement on the Arab role and make a new start. But with the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] the question now is: Will the Arab League remain a league of states, or will it become a league of economic communities? Frankly, I consider the economic community to be the common denominator. It has become the issue of the hour in various regions of the world. So why do we delay the search for integration? It saddens me to hear in Gulf circles the phrase Arabs of the north and Arabs of the south, as if there were a difference between us in this regard. Arab aid is not a favor given by one to another. It has to do with common destiny and identity, otherwise solutions would be secured at the states' expense."

The Jordanian crown prince expects the issue to be raised at the Arab summit month in Morocco. Prince Hasan believes that Jordan, being the "link state" between Egypt and Iraq geographically, will benefit from international transit.

The Jordanian crown prince says: "I believe that the relative advantage will prompt us to plan more effectively before raising gasoline or other fuel prices because of the international and domestic transport factor."

In his interview with AL-MAJALLAH Prince Hasan said that "the new approach in building economic and social programs obliges all members of society to face their responsibilities. And that means more than mouthing slogans. All that concerns us is that every professional group should adhere to its area of specialization and be able to provide alternative opinions. But regrettably, such groups, whether in Jordan or in other Arab states, are not familiar with the establishment of study and research centers or with building democratic institutions. The parliament, for which elections will be held

next year, as announced by the Jordanian Government, is urged to represent the citizens. But it will not be able to do that unless representation is based on a fundamental understanding of the economic problem—a complex problem which we cannot deal with emotionally. As for decentralization, it will certainly be a principal part of the future approach."

Probably the insufficiency of Arab aid to Jordan constitutes the main factor in the present economic crisis. But there are other internal factors, especially regarding Jordan's transformation into a consumer society and the distortion which comes from tying up large sums in costly homes.

Jordanian economists believe that the transformation into a consumer society is linked organically with the consumer society in the Gulf states, since large numbers of Jordanians have worked in the Gulf since the late 1940's. And the high oil prices in mid-1970's affected Jordanian citizens in the Gulf, increasing their remittances to Jordan. The Jordanian consumerism began to increase as a direct result of the phenomenon of consumerism in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

The Jordanian crown prince believes that it is essential to stress a regional dialogue that would lead officials in all Jordanian districts, including labor unionists, to assume the responsibility for finding solutions and determining the priorities that would oblige Jordan in the coming years to honor its commitments as a state.

He added: We cannot continue with what I call the front economy [Al-Iqtisad al-Jabhawi], which responds to all ministries' demands at the same time. We must reorganize our house.

Now that the situation in Jordan is calm and the process of putting the house in order has begun with the cabinet resignation and preparations for a national economic conference, the Jordanian crown prince says of the recent incidents: We saw those children in the streets copying the intifadah's [uprising's] children in the occupied territories on the one hand and saying that they are not affiliated with a particular party or organization, which is why they wanted to express their feelings.

But undoubtedly there are elements on the far right and the far left trying to exploit these circumstances. When I went to Ma'an at the beginning of the incidents, my task was to sympathize with legitimate demands. But I could not continue my mission when the situation deteriorated into acts of violence and random sabotage.

What concerns us is to preserve the moderation maintained by the majority of our kinfolk, which will help us overcome those regrettable incidents in the spirit of a single team.

Some acts of violence involved the use of firearms. So should Jordan reconsider the security situation by limiting arms licenses? Prince Hasan wished Jordan was able to provide arms for all citizens in view of the nature of the challenge facing them, provided that all arms are licensed.

Despite that, Prince Hasan insists that it is wrong to escalate the incidents through the use of firearms. During his handling of the crisis he was anxious that the security forces display self-control but at the same time be firm in removing the roots of unrest and violence. But that firm stand provoked conflicting views.

He said: Some said that our measures were not sufficient because we were lenient in some cases, and others said that there was no need for the security forces to intervene in the first place. At any rate, I would like to say once again if the objective of those incidents was to convey a message—though the method is disapproved—the message has been received.

We must now revise everything and rebuild on a new moral ground of trust. But if the objective was to challenge the country's security and stability, I think our security measures showed clearly that we do not bargain over the country's security at all. [passage omitted]

Prince Hasan believes it is premature to talk about the involvement of certain internal or foreign elements in stirring up the incidents. But he does not conceal that some of the outlawed parties like the Jordanian Communist Party tried to exploit the situation by distributing leaflets. And some 120 members of that party have been detained.

Furthermore, he does not conceal his suspicion about the existence of "Sharonist" (reference to Israeli Minister Ariel Sharon) fingers conspiring to transform Jordan into an alternative homeland for the Palestinians.

He adds: "I believe that it is premature to talk about certain parties. Investigations must continue until specific facts can emerge."

It was clear right from the start that Palestinian elements had nothing to do with the incidents. AL-MAJALLAH has learned from Palestinian sources that attempts were made in southern Jordan to induce the Palestinians to participate in the the acts of violence, but they refused.

Prince Hasan told AL-MAJALLAH that some prominent Palestinians expressed to him their condemnation of the use of violence, though they sympathized with their demands. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Receives Bank of England Head
JN1105122089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 may 89

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd bin Shakir received in his office today Robin Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England, in the presence of the deputy prime minister and minister of state for economic affairs, and the governor of the Central Bank.

Discussions during this meeting dealt with the relations of cooperation between the two countries in the economic fields. The meeting was attended by the British ambassador in Amman.

Central Bank Deputy Governor Resigns
JN1005080889 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 May 89 p 1

[Text] Amman—The Council of Ministers yesterday decided to accept the resignation of Dr Mahir Shukri, deputy governor of the Central Bank.

RFL: Islamic Jihad Threatens Arab Observers

NC1105162589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1613 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] According to a report carried by AFP a short while ago, the Islamic Jihad organization has issued a statement threatening the Arab observers who are expected to arrive in Lebanon, particularly their commander 'Ali al-Mu'min, a Kuwaiti Shi'ite. The statement accused Kuwait of torturing Muslim mujahidin imprisoned in Kuwait.

Further on Statement

NC1105170389 Paris AFP in English 1646 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, May 11 (AFP)—[Passage omitted] A group purporting to be Islamic Jihad threatened Thursday to harm the League's truce observers who are to be deployed here, possibly next week.

"They are all hypocrites who side with the neo-Crusader regime," a typewritten statement released in Arabic to a Western news agency said.

"We warn them—particularly the atheist agent 'Ali al-Mu'min, who is involved in torturing Moslem fighters in Kuwait—from entering the Lebanese Arab territories," the statement said.

Gen. al-Mu'min is the Shi'ite Kuwaiti commander heading the observer force.

The communique began and ended with Koranic verses, like previous Islamic Jihad statements, but it was not accompanied by photos of one of the U.S. hostages believed held here by the organization. [passage omitted]

Jihad Denies Statement

NC1205090189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization has denied that it had released any statement warning the Arab observers from entering the Lebanese territory.

The organization said the statement which was distributed yesterday was not accompanied by any photographs of the two U.S. hostages it is holding as it used to do.

'Awn, Ibrahimi Comment on Cease-Fire Talks

NC1105152689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpts] A meeting between the Arab League delegation and Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn began in B'abda Palace at 1245 today, and ended at 1410. Attending the meeting were Eng Dany Sham'un [leader of the National Liberal Party] and Faruq Abu al-Lam', secretary general of the Foreign Ministry.

Our correspondent in B'abda has sent us the following recording of Lakhdar Ibrahimi's remarks:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Ambassador, what do you have to say after this prolonged meeting with Gen Michel 'Awn?

[Ibrahimi] It was a good meeting. We discussed all the aspects of the Lebanese issue and the current problem. During the meeting, we agreed on the establishment of a cease-fire as of 1430. We will continue to talk with all parties concerning the blockades and the need to end them in a clear manner that is acceptable to all.

All current consultations are taking place in the framework of the Arab League Council's resolution and the efforts of the Arab ministerial committee charged with tackling the Lebanese problem. The goal is not (?to verify). The goal is to achieve a comprehensive solution of the Lebanese crisis and to restore peace and accord to Lebanon. This is the framework of our talks.

When I visited Dr Salim al-Huss earlier, I said, as I did before during a recent visit to Lebanon, that there is no need to fire a single shot. All problems can be resolved by dialogue among brothers and with the help of the Arab side. I also repeat that the Arab efforts have the full backing of the international community, the superpowers, the United Nations, and all parties.

We hope that the parties concerned here will cooperate with us, with the Arab committee, and with the Arab League so that we can finish this first phase and move on to serious negotiations and serious work to end the Lebanese crisis, restore accord and peace among the brothers in Lebanon, and enable an independent, free, and unified Lebanon to resume its distinguished role in the Arab region and in the world. If you will excuse me, I will not answer any questions in order to avoid creating problems. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Gen 'Awn then spoke to journalists.

[Begin recording] [unidentified reporter] Mr Prime Minister, what is your comment on the violations of the cease-fire and the shells which have especially targeted the Presidential Palace?

['Awn] There was no cease-fire in effect when they fired at the Presidential Palace. But was it fitting that they should shell the palace at a time when the delegation was entering the palace and during its stay? It seems that one should be prepared for anything these days.

[Reporter] Will Ibrahimi's undertaking in Beirut have any concrete results, in your opinion?

['Awn] Initially, there is a cease-fire. However, there are some areas where the cease-fire is not totally respected. But we hope that Ibrahimi's efforts will be successful as a beginning for holding more talks and establishing a comprehensive cease-fire.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, who will guarantee the cease-fire? It has already been violated several times.

['Awn] So far, there are no guarantees other than the moral presence of the Arab League as embodied in its representative.

[Reporter] Will the observers be coming soon?

['Awn] We hope so. The decision is up to the committee charged with dealing with this issue. [end recording]

Further Comments

NC1205131189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The Arab delegation has resumed its talks in East Beirut. At the end of his 75-minute meeting with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn at the B'abda palace this afternoon, Lakhdar Ibrahimi refused to answer questions about cease-fire violations yesterday. He also declined to answer questions on the arab observers' arrival date in Beirut.

Ibrahimi said the following: [Begin recording] We are continuing our exchanges with the brothers in West Beirut and in East Beirut. Due to our consultations today, I can say that the cease-fire will hold, God willing, this will enable us to continue our discussions with the Lebanese brothers to consolidate the cease-fire and find solid grounds to reopen the political file. [end recording]

Ibrahimi Says Cease-Fire Applies on Land Only

NC1105164989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] AFP has cited a source close to General Michel 'Awn as saying that the cease-fire aims at establishing a truce to allow the Arab League delegation to move freely between the two sides of Beirut. AFP also cites Lakhdar Ibrahimi as saying that a cease-fire has been reached among the warring sides and that this cease-fire applies only on land and not to the shelling of coasts.

Ibrahimi Comments on Meeting With Birri

NC1205101789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Lakhdar Ibrahimi has met with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri. Ibrahimi said after the meeting: Our talk has been useful and comprehensive. It falls within the context of our endeavors to consolidate the cease-fire agreement, which was reached yesterday, and to pave the way for a real effort to resolve the Lebanese crisis so that these problems will not recur.

Afterward, the Arab delegation met with Dr Salim al-Huss.

Al-Huss Cited on Resolution, U.S.-Soviet Stand

NC1205101289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Asked what is new regarding implementing the Arab decision on a cease-fire and lifting the blockades, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said: We think that the Tunis resolution was a victory for us for a number of reasons, the most important of which are:

1. The resolution, in its context, responds to our demand for an end to the alarming security deterioration caused by others.

2. The resolution placed matters in their proper perspective. It did not support the view of those who advocated a so-called liberation war and who have fabricated a big information clamor inside and outside Lebanon to portray the issue as that of foreign conflict and nothing else and who say there was no disagreement among the Lebanese.

3. The resolution expressed a clear and decisive position in favor of Arabization as opposed to internationalization of the Lebanese issue. We have not hidden our grave fears regarding the future of Lebanon were the internationalization course taken.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: We do not deny anyone's right to express certain fears or concerns, but we do not follow the course of those who are prompted by their fears and concerns to adopt positions which threaten to frustrate the Arab resolution or empty it of its content.

Therefore, we appeal to all the Lebanese to view matters rationally, and we appeal to our Arab brothers to view matters with patience and perseverance. The solution, in such a case, is bound to be closer at hand. What matters is for us to embark on this path and walk together with a collective will for reconciliation and with stubborn determination.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister al-Huss has welcomed the U.S.-Soviet joint communique on Lebanon, which expressed the two superpowers' interest in the situation in this country, their support for the Arab initiative, and their interest in the return of peace to Lebanon through a conciliatory political settlement of the crisis.

Nationalist Parties Welcome Arab League Envoys

NC1105162989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The nationalist parties and forces held a meeting today in the office of Eng 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Arab Ba'th Party organization in Lebanon. A statement was issued at the end of the meeting in which they welcomed the arrival to Lebanon of the Arab

League envoys. The nationalist parties and forces expressed their readiness to cooperate with the envoys and reiterated that the cease-fire should be the key to a final political solution and not a chance to drown the country in a new wave of violence.

In their statement, the nationalist parties and forces condemned the remarks made by the Egyptian and Iraqi presidents on the issue of Lebanon. They urged the six-man Arab committee to move swiftly to prevent the flare-up of the situation.

'Awn Reportedly Received Iraqi Ammunition

NC1205055589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] American official sources have affirmed that 'Awn has recently received large quantities of ammunition and spare parts from Iraq, and that this explains the intensity of the shelling by his forces. The sources added that the commercial ships carrying the ammunition stay in international waters beyond the range of artillery.

Truce Reportedly Linked to 'Awn's 'Designs'

NC1105155989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The new Arab move in Lebanon has produced a new cease-fire declared by Lakhdar Ibrahimi, assistant secretary general of the Arab League. The cease-fire began at 1430 today, but it has not been honored fully since then although the intensity of clashes has relatively subsided. Clashes continue intermittently along the mountain combat lines. According to Progressive Socialist Party sources, the districts of 'Alayh and the western coast were subjected to artillery and rocket bombardment at around 1600.

However, it is premature to say if the new cease-fire will hold due to General 'Awn's escalatory designs and his war against Lebanon and the Lebanese, particularly since it was ascertained that 'Awn is seeking a truce to bring in fresh weapons and supplies in order to resume his so-called "war of liberation." In this regard, highly placed nationalist sources cautioned the Arab committee and the Arab League against 'Awn's destructive intentions and his Zionized role in Lebanon.

As regards the cease-fire, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss affirmed that it will go into effect at 1430. He expressed the hope that all parties concerned will abide by it and thus enable the Arab League team to complete its task and implement the Arab League decisions.

Meanwhile, the Army Command in Beirut has pointed out that it will abide by the cease-fire and will only return fire in self-defense.

Gen 'Awn has instructed his forces to abide by the cease-fire as of 1430.

Al-Huss Interviewed on Presence of Syrian Forces

NC1105165089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has stated that the Syrian Army has come to Lebanon in accordance with a Lebanese decision and will leave Lebanon only by a Lebanese decision, to be made by a unified Lebanese government.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, published today, Dr al-Huss said that the war declared by General 'Awn against the presence of the Syrian forces in Lebanon will only generate further suffering for the Lebanese people and further destruction and ruination. Dr al-Huss went on to say: I hope that Gen 'Awn will go back on his decision and stop this war.

Dr al-Huss reiterated his ceaseless optimism over the task of the the six-man Arab committee which endeavors to resolve the Lebanese crisis, end the bloodshed, and salvage Lebanon from its current ordeal. He added: We do not believe that the task of the Arab committee has stumbled or faces a blind alley.

The prime minister reiterated his rejection of internationalizing the Lebanese issue, adding: Our issue is based on two factors, the Israeli occupation and the inter-Lebanese dispute over the future of the regime in Lebanon. Hence, the internationalization of the Lebanese crisis would threaten a cancellation of the domestic issue, he added.

Junblatt on Al-Huss, Birri Support for 'Awn

NC1205113989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] While Lakhdar Ibrahimi is conducting sensitive and critical negotiations in Beirut, Walid Junblatt has launched a strong and violent attack on former Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and muslim leaders in general. He did not spare Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri. Naturally, he began his campaign by attacking Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn. The attack has also included former President Sulayman Franjiyah.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN published today, Junblatt said that he will continue fighting until Gen Michel 'Awn is toppled. But he pointed out that this will be a difficult task and will not be accomplished without further sacrifices, destruction, and bloodshed. He noted that there is a possibility that a truce can be reached.

Junblatt declared that he is undertaking a singlehanded liberation operation for the sake of democracy in Lebanon. He accused Dr al-Huss of supporting the military government, declaring that he is not ready to pay sums of money to Muslim figures in Beirut. Junblatt said that

Al-Huss is like other traditional politicians, including former President Sulayman Franjiyah, who support Gen 'Awn. He blamed Muslim leaders for not taking a stand against Gen 'Awn.

He said that food supplies are being taken from the Amal-controlled Tyre port to ports in the eastern areas. He pointed out that this is another form of tacit support for the military government. Junblatt said he supports and cooperates with the Arab committee, but he added that the al-Sabah committee must try to persuade the Arab countries to stop these forms of support.

Junblatt welcomed the deployment of observers to supervise the cease-fire, and he said that their primary task to supervise the ports controlled by the Christian militias.

Amal Political Bureau Meets, Discusses 'Awn
NC1205070589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] The Amal Movement's Political Bureau met yesterday under the chairmanship of Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri. It affirmed the need to ensure that the Arab foreign ministers' resolution succeeds as a prelude to guaranteeing the success of the Arab good offices committee's mission, which is to achieve national reconciliation based on a new national covenant that would ensure political reforms, justice, and equality.

The Amal Movement drew attention to the gravity of General 'Awn's current designs toward partition. It called on the Arab committee to stand against this scheme, which he will implement with the support of the Iraqi regime. It also drew the attention of the forthcoming Arab summit conference and all the international organizations to the fact that 'Awn's scheme clearly means that he intends to continue the war from his bunker for many years.

The Amal Movement said that checking Gen 'Awn's scheme begins with uniting the Lebanese position and resisting the Zionist occupation. It noted that present conditions demand that all the Islamic and nationalist forces take a serious, responsible stand in the fateful confrontation.

The Amal Movement denounced the practices aimed at causing division and peripheral disputes. It also affirmed the need to overcome all differences. In addition, it affirmed the need to abide by the nationalist agreements and principles to strengthen the frameworks of cooperation and coordination by rallying around the nationalist legitimate government and opening the way before it to lead the nationalist battle and deal with the daily living conditions of the people and with political and security affairs.

40 Shells Fall on Bkirki; Casualties Reported
NC1105183889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpts] A Syrian launcher fired 40 rockets at the Bkirki and Kasrawan coast areas at 2020 this evening. Two persons were killed and the following members of the Sfayr family were wounded: Fu'ad, Joseph, Sharbil, Darin, and Hadi Sfayr. They were taken to the Pasteur Hospital for treatment. The shelling also caused fires to break out in the outskirts of Bkirki.

The Syrian bombardment is coming from the Normadie area in West Beirut. At 2100, a Syrian shell fell in the vicinity of B'abda. [Passage omitted]

We have just been informed that a short while ago the body of citizen Nadiah Sfayr was taken to the Sayyidat Lubnan Hospital in the wake of the shelling.

Jubayl Coast Shelled; Clashes in Beirut
NC1105170489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Despite the declaration of the cease-fire, Syrian attacks have continued. Four shells fell on the Jubayl coast at approximately 1650. Since 1830, clashes in which light- and medium-caliber weapons are being used have been taking place on the Al-Tayyunah and Dar al-Kitab combat lines in Beirut.

Afghanistan

Battle for Control of Jalalabad Continues

Pakistan Said Preparing Attack

LD1105202889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] A news conference was held this afternoon at the Foreign Ministry press center on the military and political situation in the country. Foreign and Afghan journalists participated.

The BIA military section reports that Major General Abdul Haq Ulumi, secretary of the Supreme Council for the Defense of the Homeland and head of the Armed Forces section of the PDPA Central Committee, spoke in connection with the military situation in the country. He stated that despite the cease-fire, which was declared by the Republic of Afghanistan in respect of the holy month of Ramadan, armed extremist groups supported by Pakistan have ignored the holiness of the month of Ramadan and fired 80,000 heavy weapons rounds at the residential areas of our compatriots during the month of Ramadan. As a result 400 civilians were martyred, including children and women, and 900 others were injured.

Some 79 houses were damaged, and 105 shops, 15 mosques, three schools, and five shrines were destroyed or partially damaged. The largest loss of life and financial damage occurred in Jalalabad city. Also, during the 3 sacred days of 'Id al-Fitr, criminal extremists, under the direct instruction from Pakistani intelligence, fired 3,000 heavy weapons rounds at residential areas in the province. As a result, 45 civilians were martyred, the majority being women and children, and 22 were injured. Thirty-one houses, a mosque, 31 shops, and two hospitals were either destroyed or damaged.

In connection with the broad aspect of direct interference by the Pakistani military and with the cooperation of Saudi Wahhabis, Maj Gen Ulumi said that according to reliable information Pakistani soldiers are preparing a new attack on Jalalabad city.

For this purpose Pakistan has deployed its units and companies in the regions of Nader Shah Kowt, Gowshtah, [placename indistinct], Shamalan, and areas around (Khaybar) valley. In conclusion, Maj Gen Ulumi replied to questions of the journalists in connection with the readiness of the Armed Forces to foil the aggression of Pakistani soldiers and Saudi Wahhabis.

Mujahidin Capture 'Strategic Site'

BK1205025389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have launched another attack on Jalalabad and captured an important strategic site in the south-west of the city. The western part of the besieged city has now come under a mujahidin artillery barrage. The mujahidin have also claimed that the blockade of essential supplies to Jalalabad city from the southwest will now be possible. They say that since this attack, the siege on the city has tightened.

According to AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY, during the fighting on the Jalalabad front on Tuesday [9 May], the commanding officer of 55th Brigade was killed along with a number of soldiers. The name of the commanding officer was not known. In the Jalalabad fighting, at least three generals have so far been killed.

AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY has reported that fierce fighting continues in the (Khusk Bander) area south of the city's airport for the past 3 days. The mujahidin have captured two more posts which provide defense around 21st Brigade. Another report says the mujahidin fired rockets on a Kabul police training center yesterday, where paramilitary forces are being trained for the defense of Kabul.

Brigade Commander Said Killed

BK1105120589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1143 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Islamabad, May 11 (AFP)—The commander of an Afghan Army brigade has been killed fighting rebels in Jalalabad, resistance sources said here Thursday [11 May].

The pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said the unnamed commanding officer of the 55th Brigade died along with a number of his men during a government counter-offensive against mujahidin rebels Tuesday.

It said bodies of at least 27 soldiers and young officers killed by the mujahidin gunners were still lying in the area two days after the fierce encounter.

The brigade was moved recently from the nearby Asmar garrison to beef up the defence of the strategic eastern city besieged by the Moslem rebels.

At least three generals have been killed in the Jalalabad fighting so far.

The latest counter-attack was launched on Moslem festival 'Id al-Fitr Sunday to flush out guerrillas from their positions.

"The attack was repulsed with troops failing to make any headway," ANA said.

ANA said heavy fighting was continuing in the Khushgumbad [placename as received] area, south of the city's main airport for the past three days. The unoperational airport is being defended by the 81st Brigade and the Afghan Army's First Corps.

Two more posts forming a security ring around the 81st Brigade fell to the rebels Wednesday, ANA said.

The agency, vigorously denying an official Afghan report that the regime troops had broken the two month old siege and pushed the rebels away west and east of the beleaguered city as "baseless propaganda," said the mujahidin Wednesday seized the Muhammad Khan post near Khushgumbad after a brief change of hands of three security bases in the area.

It said guerrillas have shot down three planes as the government renewed bombing rebel positions.

Resistance sources said fighting was also heavy between government troops based at Qandahar airport and the mujahidin attacking the second biggest Afghan city. But they gave no details.

Rebel Defence Minister Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi at a news conference here said Wednesday that the mujahidin have decided to launch a general offensive targetting big cities and major government bases in an apparent move to ease pressure on rebels at Jalalabad.

More on Journalists' Tour

BK1205025089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0236 GMT 12 May 89

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Jalalabad, Afghanistan, May 12 (AFP)—This eastern Afghan city has been left scarred but virtually intact with water, electricity and telephones still working despite a pounding by thousands of mujahidin rockets during a two-month siege.

The first Western journalists to visit Jalalabad since the siege began, saw Wednesday [10 May] that the city, flanked by snow-capped mountains and surrounded by orchards and wheat fields, was almost deserted save for government soldiers.

Shrapnel-scarred houses were abandoned, shops boarded up and streets virtually empty. The huge walled city jail is ironically undamaged, its 70 prisoners still inside.

But earlier reports from Soviet journalists, and a statement by Afghanistan President Najibullah in Kabul that the mujahidin had reduced Jalalabad to rubble were clearly exaggerated.

The city's houses, many surrounded by sumptuous gardens, are standing, even though their windows are shattered and walls pock-marked with holes. Shops, although closed and boarded up, are still standing and basically intact.

Mujahidin claims that they held the airport and parts of the old city also proved to be unfounded—although pilots say that rockets fired by the resistance guerrillas from long range had effectively stopped planes landing.

Jalalabad, known as "the gateway to Kabul," is semi-abandoned but not destroyed—and it is still under siege.

Traffic on the road from Kabul—its only supply lifeline—is subject to ambushes, mining and attacks.

But there are few people for the mujahidin to take, should they still want to, and few people for government soldiers to defend.

Reports from the Pakistan border, only 75 kilometres (46 miles) away, say that up to 40,000 refugees crossed the border at the outset of the siege, fleeing intense fighting, heavy government bombing and mujahidin rocketing.

Mujahidin rocketing has become less frequent and government soldiers do not appear to be fighting. But a greyish tinge in peoples' faces after living in cellars during the siege and a sickening smell in the hot deserted streets attest to the ferocity of the first attacks in March.

The siege has turned into a stalemate, a fact borne out by a half empty general hospital and a decision by the Soviet-backed Kabul government to risk sending Western journalists into the city for the first time.

With most civilians gone and the heat of the summer setting in on the eastern Afghanistan plains, both sides seem to recognise the futility of continuing the battle. There is a strange calm over Jalalabad.

In Kabul, radio and television laud their heroes in daily reports—the soldiers, including three generals, who died, "proved that the Afghan Army" could stand on its own feet after the departure of the mighty Soviet Army.

Rebel sources in Afghanistan say the mujahidin were rethinking their post-Soviet withdrawal strategy.

The Jalalabad siege—launched less than three weeks after the completion on February 15 of the Soviet troop pullout—succeeded only in driving the residents away, as had the Soviets.

Kabul Details Violent Clashes in Provinces

LD1105213589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 MAY 89

[Text] Armed extremist groups backed by Pakistan and armed Wahhabi mercenaries fired heavy weapons yesterday in Nangarhar, Paktia, Qandahar, Konduz, and Herat Provinces, and in some regions of Khowst Major District. The heroic and brave units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in these provinces responded.

An authoritive source in the Armed Forces reported to the BIA military section that the situation was normal in other provinces and regions of the country. The main supply routes to Kabul are open. The source adds that the joint enemy forces, which include Pakistani soldiers

and militias, Saudi Wahhabis, and armed extremists, yesterday fired rockets at security posts in Jalalabad city and its surroundings. The artillery forces of the 11th and 18th Divisions of the Pakistan Army also participated in these attacks. As a result, a civilian and a security personnel member were martyred, eight were injured, and two houses were destroyed.

The source adds that the combat units and companies stationed in Nangarhar Province heroically and bravely defend the country's independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity against the attacks by the joint forces of the enemy and respond with crushing blows to the enemies of our Muslim people.

The source adds that the search operation which began a few days ago in the east and northeast continued yesterday. The Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province seized 5,250 rockets, 330 shells for a recoilless gun, 10,560 machinegun rounds, 60 hand grenades, various types of infantry weapons, and two stores of clothing and foodstuffs belonging to the enemy.

As a result of the Armed Forces' artillery fire and air attacks, 102 enemy personnel were killed and 52 others were injured. Among those killed were two ringleaders, three Pakistani militias members, and an armed Wahhabi mercenary. Three enemy mortars, three recoilless guns, two MB-1 systems, two rocket launchers, two arms and ammunition depots, a command base, and three vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition were destroyed.

The Armed Forces' source adds that one person was hurt as a result of assorted weapons fire at some regions of Khowst Major District. In retaliation the armed Forces Stationed in Khowst resorted to heavy attacks on the gathering places of these murderers. As a result 70 of the enemy were killed. Two recoilless guns, an arms and ammunition depot, and a number of strongholds were destroyed.

Armed extremists linked with Pakistan fired at some regions of the provinces of Konduz and Herat. Two people were martyred and one injured in Konduz. As a result of retaliatory attacks by the security forces in Herat Province, seven extremists were killed and four others were injured.

Also armed extremist groups fired at some regions of Qandahar and Paktia Provinces which did not cause any loss of life.

Mujahidin Destroy Highway Positions Near Khowst

BK1205113789 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have besieged the battalion headquarters at Nader Shah Kowt in Paktia Province. They are reported to have destroyed the Kabul regime positions on the highway leading to Khowst cantonment, killing at least 25 troops.

Najibullah Sees Off Pakistani Politician

LD1205082589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee, went to Kabul International Airport this morning to see off Abdul Wali Khan, chairman of the Awami National Party and a well-known politician, who was departing Kabul after a friendly visit.

A number of members of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee, the minister of border affairs, deputies, the leaders of the Pashtun and Baluchi tribes residing in Kabul, students, and a number of Kabul citizens were also at the airport.

Najibullah Promotes Army General Sayd Ma'sum

LD1105165989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Under a decree by the president of Afghanistan, the esteemed Najibullah, Brigadier General Sayd Ma'sum, son of Gholan Nabi, has been promoted to the rank of major general based on his outstanding and valuable services in the defense of the people and the country.

'Refugees' in Iran To Join Interim Cabinet

BK1205082589 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] The Iran-based Afghan refugees have decided in principle to join the Afghan interim government. AGENCE-AFGHAN PRESS, quoting authoritative sources, says the leaders of the eight-party alliance in Iran will soon visit Islamabad and Peshawar to work out details of the decision with the mujahidin leaders.

The agency says a four-point document in this regard was signed between a five-member delegation led by the minister for reconstruction in the interim government, Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, and the Afghan mujahidin living in Iran, when the delegation visited Iran recently.

Bangladesh

Communist Party Leader Nurul Islam Interviewed

PM0505104289 London MORNING STAR in English 5 May 89 pp 6-7

[Report on interview with Nurul Islam, leader of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, by John Haylett: "When the Floods Are Over"]

[Text] Bangladesh only hits the headlines in the British media when the annual floods burst the country's river banks and cause death and destruction.

For a short period, TV and newspaper pictures record the people's suffering while disaster relief organisations call for emergency donations to alleviate the worst of the misery.

Once the immediate catastrophe is over, public interest in the life and struggles of the Bangladeshi people wanes.

The veil over the divisions in Bangladeshi society was partially lifted in February when military strongman General Ershad was met by angry demonstrations of exiled Bengalis during his state visit to Britain.

The general was attacked for his government's inability to deal with the floods and for its intransigence in the face of widespread demands for democratic reform.

Communist Party of Bangladesh leader Nurul Islam believes that the two issues are closely linked.

"Last year's floods were unprecedented, with even the capital Dhaka being submerged. The government was not competent to face up to the disaster.

"The government depended on aid from abroad, but had no strategy to operate in a united way with the peasants. The people need democracy so that the government and the peasants can work together to control floods."

Mr Islam, a secretary to the Communist Party of Bangladesh Central Committee, points out that the origins of Bangladesh's rivers are in the neighbouring countries of India, Nepal and Bhutan.

Destruction of forestry in the mountains leads to the silting-up of the rivers, which is made worse by a failure to dredge them in an organised way.

The consequent floods have become a life and death issue for the region. It must be faced up to on a regional basis, believes Mr Islam.

National and regional co-operation are made more difficult by the deep social divisions, caused by the government's policies.

Mr Islam recalls the hopes and aspirations of the people, which were excited by the successful national liberation struggle waged against the country's Pakistani rulers.

"Our people had been suppressed. We had no democratic or national rights. Our hopes were of a country where economic and social needs could be fulfilled.

"At the beginning, after independence was won in December 1971, there were many progressive policies introduced by the government of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," he says.

But in 1975, there was a military coup led by Army majors, in which Sheikh Mujib was killed.

Successive administrations became more right-wing. Progressive policies were ditched and the government began to operate in the interest of the foreign controlled bourgeoisie, top-ranking military officers and US imperialism.

"They made our country dependent on imperialism and on foreign aid," Mr Islam complains.

"Our country is now one of the poorest in the world, with 87 percent living below the poverty line and 57 percent living in the direst poverty.

"Differences between rich and poor are widening. In 1971, 27 percent of the people were landless. Now 60 percent are without land.

"Agricultural workers are lucky if they can find work for 120 days a year. Those in work are poorly paid and can usually only afford one meal a day."

Bangladesh is still largely an agricultural country, with the ruling clique uninterested in developing industrial potential, but preferring to get rich by buying and selling imported goods.

The price of seeds and fertiliser is rocketing, while peasants receive rock-bottom prices for their produce, particularly for jute, the main export cash crop.

The upshot is that poor peasants are forced to sell their land and join the ranks of the agricultural labourers.

Public-owned companies are being privatised and asset-stripped, causing unemployment to rise. Even where workers do have jobs, their wages are pitifully low.

"Middle-class people are also affected, but a few people are becoming very rich and corruption is everywhere," Mr Islam complains.

He accuses the government of trying to outflank the national movement for democratic reform through demagogic propaganda in favour of making Bangladesh an Islamic republic.

"We fought to win our independence based on the language, culture and tradition of our nation, not for an Islamic regime.

"The government has made Islam the state religion. It is not religious, but it is exploiting the religious feelings of the people, who are 90 percent Muslim, for its own interest," he explains.

"Reactionaries try to use the religious sentiments of the people against our party, to try to isolate the party from the masses, but people know the party's record.

"Communists have never worked to destroy religion. We concentrate on the interests of the people and are in the forefront of their bread and butter struggles.

"We have pointed out that religious people see the need for peace, better living conditions, progress and freedom. Those demands are also backed by Communists. There is no contradiction between struggle and religion.

"We celebrated our 40th anniversary last year—40 years of fighting. Other parties have been involved in monkey business, corruption and smuggling, but no-one can say anything against the Communists," he declares proudly.

The principled approach of the Bangladeshi Communists has borne fruit.

While the Communist Party of Bangladesh began as quite a small party, it played a unifying role in encouraging forces to combine in a nationwide movement for democratic rights.

It has now emerged as one of the country's major political forces and can no longer be ignored by the government—or in fact by other opposition parties.

The party now organises in all districts. It has about, 1,200 branches, 400 area committees and 60 district committees. Its membership has trebled during the'80s.

In addition, party activists work in broad-based women's, youth, and agricultural labourers' organisations.

The Bangladesh Khetmojur Samity (Bangladesh Agricultural Workers Association) is leading rural workers in the occupation and tilling of land and the fight for trade union rights.

Despite government voting manipulation and ballot-rigging, the party won six seats in the 1986 parliamentary election, which was called to defuse the nationwide movement for democratic rights.

A further election called last year was boycotted by the opposition and less than 7 percent of the electorate bothered to vote.

Opposition forces are divided into two main blocs. The Communist Party is part of a 15-party alliance, which includes the Awami League, founded by national martyr Sheikh Mujib.

There is also a seven-party alliance, headed by the Bangladesh National Party (BNP). Former co-operation between the two blocs has faded since the National Party forged links with the Islamic fundamentalist Jama'at-i-Islam party.

"We are for co-operation with the BNP, but not with the Jamaiyat-i-Islam, which opposed the independence struggle and is actually fascist," Mr Islam declares.

His meetings with the Bangladeshi community in Britain last month gave him a graphic insight into the problems of his compatriots here.

"Our people have great difficulties with unemployment, housing, education and health care. And there is the ever present threat of racism.

"Our people didn't come here for fun. Two hundred years of colonial exploitation robbed our people and made our country poor. Our people have a legitimate claim.

"We demand a solution to their problems, not separate from British working people but alongside them," he stresses.

To assist Bangladeshi people in Britain and to mirror the unifying role that it plays in Bangladesh, the Communist Party of Bangladesh has set up an organisation here.

India

'Secessionist Groups' Sponsor Strike in Kashmir

BK1105125589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, bundh [strike] was observed in most parts of Srinagar town today. While shops and business establishments remained closed, essential commodities like vegetables and bakery products were available. Both vehicular and private traffic remained normal. Educational institutions in Srinagar remained open. Hawkers and pedestrians were seen as usual. There has not been any incident so far in Srinagar.

Three other towns in Kashmir Valley—Anantnag, Sopor, and Baramula—were also affected by the bundh, which was called by some secessionist groups.

3 Bombs Explode During Strike

BK1205112789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1108 GMT 12 May 89

[Excerpt] Srinagar, India, May 12 (AFP)—Three bombs exploded here Friday [12 May], damaging a tourist bus and a few shops, as a general strike called by Moslem militants paralysed parts of India's northern Jammu and Kashmir state for a second day.

No one was killed or injured in the blasts which police blamed on pro-Pakistani Moslem militants opposed to the state's 1947 accession to India.

The blasts came as a four-day general strike which began Thursday closed all shops and businesses, hotels, restaurants and cinemas in Srinagar, the state's summer capital, and other Moslem-dominated cities for a second day in a row.

Road transport was badly hit, but government offices were functioning all over Jammu and Kashmir, the only Moslem-majority state in overwhelmingly Hindu India.

Police, meanwhile, stepped up security in the state amid fears that the militants would try to breach peace after Friday prayers.

The strike has been called by secessionist organisations such as the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, the Jammu and Kashmir Youth League and the youth wing of the fundamentalist Jamaiyat-i-Islami.

The organisations have distributed leaflets and plastered wall posters calling the strike in support of their "liberation war" and to protest against the arrest of a large number of their supporters. [passage omitted]

Parliament Passes Bill To Lower Voting Age to 18
BK1105131289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The Lok Sabha has passed the bill to further amend the Representation of the People's Act 1950. Under this, young men and women who have attained the age of 18 years as on the 1st of April this year will be entitled to vote in the next elections.

Replying to the discussion, the union law minister, Mr B. Shankaranand, said the Election Commission has already initiated steps to enroll new voters consequent on the lowering of the voting age. He said the bill will also empower the Election Commission among other things to consolidate various orders and information relating to the delimitation of parliamentary and assembly constituencies.

Sharing the concern of the members about the need to have free and fair elections, Mr Shankaranand said electoral reforms are a continuing process and the government may bring more such amendment as and when necessary.

Taking part in the discussion, members from both sides of the House welcomed the new measure.

Spokesman Regrets Nepal 'Harassment' of Indians
BK1105145389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] India has expressed concern and anguish at the recent deterioration in relations between India and Nepal. This was stated by an official spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry while replying to querries from newsmen in New Delhi today. He said India and Nepal have shared relations which are unique. In this context the 1950 treaty is a significant landmark which serves to buttress the very special relationship which is not replicated in the region or anywhere in the world.

The spokesman said that the matter which aggravates the situation is the unnecessary and unjustified harassment of Indians and people of Indian origin living and working in Nepal.

It is ironic that Indians who have been working in Nepal for decades and Indians who have been living there for generations are now being harassed and required to get work permits even to live in Nepal. He said if this measure was intended to club the Indians with foreigners, then it knocks out the very base of the 1950 treaty under which both the countries are required to treat each other's citizens at par.

Nepal's Attitude on Bilateral Ties Criticized
BK0905120989 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 9 May 89

[Commentary by Mahendra P. Lamba: "Indo-Nepalese Economic Relations, the Current Stalemate"]

[Text] Now the Indian ambassador to Nepal is back to Kathmandu with his confabulations being over in New Delhi. This has raised much hope to the present stalemate between India and Nepal. Some of the positive pronouncements by the Nepalese senior ministers and officials have added further light to this ray of hope. However, Nepal's continued raising of this strictly bilateral issue in various international forums has done more harm to the ever accommodative Indian side.

The first treaty on trade and transit was signed in 1950. After accommodating some of the needs of Nepal, new treaties were signed in 1960 and 1971. On the continued insistence of Nepal, India showed a rare gesture of friendship by entering into two separate treaties—one on trade, and another on transit—followed by an agreement for the control of unauthorized trade for the first time in 1978.

Under this Nepal received a wide range of facilities—debarring from excise duty refund by the Indian Government on the Indian goods exported to Nepal, exemption from customs duty and quantitive restrictions on primary commodities produced in Nepal, and in case of industrial products, only if they contained not less than 80 percent of Nepalese or Nepalese and Indian raw materials.

Supply of certain essential items—like cement, coal, steel, etcetera—under quota system by India, free unrestricted and uncomplicated transit facilities—such as facilities at two ports at Calcutta and Haldia—15 routes to facilitate Nepal's trade with third countries, 21 routes for Nepal's trade with India and opening of overland railway facility at Radhikapur for trade with Bangladesh. By liberally giving such facilities India more than fulfilled its neighborly obligations—an extension of facilities which a landlocked country is usually entitled for.

The current deadlock in this age old relation is of Nepalese making only, as they have disregarded India's economic and strategic interests. As usual Nepal toward the end of the treaty term raised a hue and cry to get further concessions even if they are of no economic consequences.

Nepal's liberal trade policy vis-a-vis the countries other than India and, of late, imposition of discriminatory tariff on Indian goods along with the presence of numerous foreign aid missions there, have altogether led to a proliferation of foreign goods in Nepal, which far exceeds the domestic demands. Most of these goods either do not reach Nepal and are sold in India or even if some of them reach, they again come back through smuggling because of the open border. India has no control over it as they are third country goods. This extensive import by Nepal blatantly violates the 1978 agreement on control of unauthorized trade.

Nepal's unrelenting attitude in demanding the drastic reduction at percentage of contents of Nepalese or Nepalese and Indian origin in the industrial products exported to India by Nepal, is against India's basic trade philosophy. India feels that if it is reduced, the Nepalese products would be full of third country raw materials, which may amount to giving such exemption to China or Japan.

Nepal's much talked about trade deficit with India is mainly because of it poor export base in terms of goods and services and other ancillary facilities.

Nepal's decision to diversify trade to reduce its so-called dependence on India or deficit in trade has not yielded any result. Instead, it has increased the trade deficit. It increased from a mere 196 million rupees in 1974-75 to 4,819 [figure as heard] million rupees in 1985-86, which is almost double the Nepal's trade deficit with India.

Therefore, India strongly feels that Nepal's insistence on a separate treaty on transit and tread has more of political rather than economic content as it helps Nepal in sustaining the present power alignments and anti-India campaigns though at a superficial level.

Whereas, India's plea on a single treaty is more realistic as it keeps in mind the economic interests of poor Nepalese who cannot afford to buy anything imported from such farflung third countries incurring huge transport cost.

Further, a single treaty can give a check to the unbridled deflection of foreign goods into India without hampering the present transit facilities extended by India for Nepal's trade with third countries.

On top of all these Nepal's direct encouragement to the foreign agencies to work in the open and sensitive Indo-Nepalese border has adversely affected Indian strategic interest. For example, in the building of the last portion of the East-West highway, China became the lowest bidder though it came out to be strict political bidding from China. India at the last moment had to extent a grant of 50 crores to thwart this Chinese presence.

India's protest notwithstanding, Nepal has allowed China to involve itself in the Lumbini Sugar Mills, which is just a few kilometers away from the Indian border.

Apart from encouraging investors, India has been the highest bilateral aid doner in Nepal. Till 1988-89, India had extended a grant of 3,078.8 million rupees to Nepal. All these are aimed at developing the infrastructure in Nepal and their export base.

Agreement With Pakistan To Halt Drug Smuggling

BK1205042589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] The meeting of the Indo-Pakistan committee to combat drug trafficking has agreed on several measures to check smuggling and drug trafficking across the borders. Steps are to be taken to quicken the means of communication between the [word indistinct] agencies of the two countries and also to exchange information on the modus operandi of smugglers and drug traffickers. It was also decided to update the list of drug traffickers operating across the borders.

The Indian side at the 2-day meeting, which ended in New Delhi yesterday, was led by the Director General of the Narcotics Control Bureau Mr N.N. Bhatnagar and the Pakistan side by Mr Kalim Dil Khan.

President To Visit 3 African Countries 6-13 Jun

BK1205042189 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1430 GMT 11 May 89

["Official Spokesman's Statement on President's Visit Abroad"]

[Text] The president of India will be paying a state visit to Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Tanzania from June 6 to 13, 1989. He will be in Zimbabwe from 6th to 8th June; Zambia from 8th to 10 June and Tanzania from 10th to 13th June. He will be holding talks with the heads of state in all three African countries.

Japan Gives India Grant of 600 Million Yen

OW0805215289 Tokyo KYODO in English 1249 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Tokyo, May 8 KYODO—Japan is giving a grant of up to 600 million yen to India to help the populous country increase agricultural productivity, Foreign Ministry officials said Monday.

Documents detailing terms of the grant were exchanged by diplomats in the Indian capital of New Delhi, the officials said.

The grant is for the purchase of agricultural equipment and pesticides as part of India's seventh five-year plan, which places special emphasis on raising the country's low rate of farming productivity, the officials said.

The official noted that India is making earnest attempts to feed and raise the caloric intake of its population of almost 800 million people.

Japan has been the largest supplier of developmental aid to India since 1987, and India is the fifth largest recipient of Japanese official development assistance (ODA), according to Foreign Ministry figures.

Iran

Simultaneous Presidential Election, Referendum

LD1105185489 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Nowshahr, Mazandaran Prov., May 11, IRNA—The constitutional amendments now under study will be put to public referendum simultaneously with the presidential elections in August, the interior minister said today.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Mohtashemi said that people will cast their votes for or against the constitutional amendments in the same polling booth that will be set up for the presidential elections.

The leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni recently appointed a board to iron out the weak points of the Constitution and offer its proposals within a two month period.

Twenty members of the board were personally appointed by the imam and the remaining five were nominated by the Majlis.

It is said the constitutional review board might strike out the post of premiership and instead give more power to the president.

Constitution Council Reviews Judicial Branch

LD1105211689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The commission reviewing those issues related to the presidency of the judicial branch—the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution—after a number of sessions, reviewed Article 11 of the Constitution, which pertains to the judicial branch.

The secretariat of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution, announcing the above, added: This commission also reviewed the experiences of the past years regarding the management of the country's judicial apparatus and its ensuing problems, and reached the verdict that the Supreme Judicial Council should no longer work on a consultative basis.

Regarding the presidency of the judicial branch, the commission decided that the management of its judicial and executive issues should be allocated to one person, and this person should, with the aid of his deputy, manage the tasks of the judicial apparatus.

The commission discussed and reviewed the conditions required of the president of the judicial branch and concluded that the president of the judicial branch should be a just Islamic thinker with a sound knowledge of judicial matters and an efficient and prudent manager. On the basis of this decision, the leader will select the president of the judicial branch, who will serve a 5-year term.

Editorial on Parameters for Constitution Review

NC0905100289 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 26 Apr 89 pp 1, 9

[Unattributed editorial: "On the Amendment"]

[Excerpts] The publication of the imam's views on the Constitution and the need for its amendment helped to clarify and answer many basic and important points on this issue. Between the time a group of Majlis deputies and members of the Supreme Judiciary Council made their views known on the need to review some of the articles of the Constitution and the imam issued a decree on the appointment of a delegation to carry out this duty, rumors and other ambiguities joined hands and gave rise to many questions, the most important of which was on the contents of the Constitution and what the intention was in reviewing it. This gave rise to some concern.

Fortunately, with the publication of the imam's decree and the clarification of the points that will be revised in the Constitution, many of the ambiguities have been overcome. [passage omitted]

This shows that the major part of the revision will be the form of the Constitution, not the contents. Thus, a great concern of some people who feared that a number of the principles of the Constitution, and especially the one on the economy, were to be revised was removed. [passage omitted]

It is necessary to point out some things as far as the parameters set by the imam for reviewing the Constitution are concerned.

The first is that the committee that has been formed should bear in mind the fact that the main engineer of the current Constitution was Martyr Ayatollah Beheshti, in whose scientific knowledge, experience, and alertness there is no doubt. [passage omitted]

The second point is that the issue of leadership is an extremely important one. Any revision of the articles considering the leadership of the system that will only remove some of the existing problems without taking into consideration the dangerous results stemming from

lowering the authority of the leader will not be suitable. This very point dictates that this issue should not be regarded simply as an issue of form.

This aspect of the leadership issue is an issue of content that is related to the basis of the ruling system. For this reason, it is necessary that the utmost attention be paid by the members of the committee to this vital issue, so that, God willing, a solution is found which will not lead to numerous problems in the future.

The third point says that specific duties and rights should be taken into consideration for the Expediency Discernment Council so that, as stated in the imam's decree, this council will not become a "power spanning other branches." If this happens, then it will be contrary to the intent of the decree. On this same issue, it should also be taken into consideration that if the framework of the activities of the Expediency Discernment Council is not clearly defined, this council may in the future grant itself the right to modify the contents of the Constitution and consider it its right to adopt decisions contrary to the lines delineated in the Constitution.

Therefore, while pointing out the benefits of adding such an institution to the Constitution, we should also consider the possible damage that could be done. We should think of something that will not lead to this.

The fourth point of special significance is centralization. As useful as this is for the correct administration of the country, it may also cause harm. It is true that many of the shortcomings in the past 10 years have stemmed from the absence of centralization in some of the high-ranking managerial positions. Nevertheless, one should not ignore the fact that the defects in some managers have played a role in this, too.

Therefore, as far as the centralization of management is concerned, it is better to avoid extremism so that, God forbid, we will not be made to face unfavorable results which are certainly more dangerous than the absence of centralization.

ETTELA'AT on Constitutional Amendments

NC1105130889 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 29 Apr 89 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The Constitution and Amendments"]

[Excerpts] The imam has announced the names of the members of the panel for formulating changes in the articles of the Constitution which have to be debated and reassessed. There are 25 members and the number of articles to be debated has been specified as eight.

The term being frequently mentioned in connection with the amendments and reappraisal is "centralization." [passage omitted]

Skill in following a moderate policy and recognizing the boundaries of one's jurisdiction in order to avoid indulging in extremes is a delicate and complicated art. Experience has shown that sometimes the path for an escape from despotism results in chaos and vice versa!

If the Iranian administrative system had not been based on the rule of the jurisconsult, which in turn had not set such an outstanding precedent, the policy and method that we adopted for the delegation of political and executive authority would have swiftly transformed this path of escape from despotism into one which spread and consolidated chaos and multiplied and diversified the centers of power. This would have culminated in the "Lebanonization" of the country.

Fortunately, we are not being too optimistic and are not imagining that the country's problems will disappear at a stroke with the amendment of articles and chapters in the Constitution. We are not so naive as to believe that the roots and causes of all social problems are embodied in these articles to be assessed by the council so that as soon as they are detected, assessed, and amended, they will evaporate! This is not so. There are numerous roots and causes and one of them also happens to be linked to the laws, the legal obstacles, and the administrative and executive system.

Iranian Toilers Radio Reports Montazeri Letter

LD1205100189 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Dear listeners: Another shocking letter from Ayatollah Montazeri addressed to Khomeyni about the mass murder of political prisoners last summer has reached us. In this letter, a particular crime by the regime in the prisons has been revealed, which by itself reveals the criminal face of Khomeyni and the regime. This single case shows the great criminal and antihumanitarian methods of the hireling executioners of Khomeyni against the revolutionaries and people of Iran.

The text of Ayatollah Montazeri's letter follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

To Your Excellency Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, may your blessings continue.

Peace and greetings, in view of the letter dated 9 Mordad 1367 [31 July 1988] and in order to fulfill my religious duty, I inform you of the following:

Three days ago, a provincial religious judge—who is a reliable person—came to me in Qom to express his unhappiness with the way in which Your Excellency's orders have been implemented. He said: The intelligence official or the judge—I [Montazeri expressing doubt] am not sure which—questioned a prisoner to find out the

prisoner's political leanings. He asked him: Are you prepared to condemn the monafeqin [hypocrites] group [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization]?

He answered: Yes. He was then asked: Are you prepared to watch? [sentence as heard] He answered: Yes. He was asked: Are you ready to go to the front to fight the Iraqis? He replied: Yes. He was asked: Are you ready to walk on mines? He replied: Is everyone ready to walk on mines? And he [reference to prisoner] added: You should not expect too much from me as I have only recently converted to Islam. The official said: It is obvious you have the same political beliefs. The official then did to him what should be done to such people with those beliefs.

This religious judge said: I insisted that the vote be unanimous, not a majority vote. This was not accepted. The main role was played by the intelligence official and others, who are under his influence.

Your Excellency. Pay attention to the views of persons who are in charge of your important orders regarding the lives of thousands of people.

Peace be upon you and God's blessings and mercy.

[Signed] Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri

Chief Justice Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD1205124689 Tehran IRNA in English 1133 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA—The chief justice Friday stressed that there would be no let up in the campaign against serious crime. He said last week's "firm and fruitful dealing" with criminals such as drug traffickers and seditious elements in several cities was another sign that Imam Khomeyni's demand for greater efficiency in the judiciary was being implemented.

"Those involved in judicial affairs are sincerely carrying out their services without wasting any time," Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili told Tehran's mass Friday prayer gathering.

He said traffickers and anti-Islamic groups had been dealt with in the cities of Tabriz, Gorgan, Shiraz, Mashhad, Zahedan, Chalus, Khvoy, Yazd, and a number of other cities.

He urged judicial authorities not to show "the slightest toleration towards the crimes and punishment of these sort of individuals."

Also the chief justice thanked the Iranian nation for their massive participation in last week's nation-wide rallies marking International Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Day. He said their presence was a firm blow against the enemies of the Islamic Republic.

The ayatollah also thanked Imam Khomeyni for his recent advice to theological schools concerning teaching and student practices.

On other subjects, the chief justice praised the efforts of the Islamic Open University, and said the resumption of exports from the partially repaired Abadan oil refinery was a hopeful sign.

Larijani's Article Reviews Foreign Policy

NC1105165489 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 27 Apr 89 p 20

[Article by Dr Mohammad Javad Larijani, former deputy foreign minister: "The Future and Constructive Elements in Foreign Policy"]

[Text] 1. What kind of a nation do we want and what kind of a country do we want Iran to be? Various ideals may be propounded by individuals with specific ideas and viewpoints. However, one cannot find any clear-sighted and committed Iranian Muslim who will not agree with the following three points:

First, Iran should be the beating heart of the Muslim world. In other words, in Tehran not only Iran's interests should be taken into consideration, but the vista should also expand to include the adoption of decisions for the Muslim world as a whole. Similarly, the Muslims of the world should consider Tehran to be their capital and should place their reliance on it when confronting problems and difficulties.

Second, Islamic Iran should be strong. In other words, our military strength should be such that not only will the enemies of Islam not dare to undertake acts of aggression against us or to think of dominating us, but also if a country intends to commit acts of aggression against any part of the Islamic world or to intervene in its affairs, it will have our response to contend with. Merely issuing statements on the radio and television will definitely not have such an effect; such statements should be coupled with genuine military strength.

Third, Islamic Iran should be flourishing and developed. In other words, it should possess an abundance of products that will not only feed the people of this country but will also feed millions throughout the world. Its cities should be flourishing, with developed industries and scientific and technical capabilities, so that the people of the world can turn to this country for education and the young people will consider Iran as the center where their dreams will be fulfilled.

2. What has been said above, in exactly this order of priority, is not wishful thinking. Our situation, capabilities, and experiences give us the right to embark on such a great task. Are we not witnessing one of the world's

greatest revolutions in our country today? Has the Islamic revolution not brought about an Islamic revival and renaissance? Is Iran not the country of the world's great heroes?

Did ancient Greece, which regarded the entire world with contempt, not praise the unprecedented military ideas of this country and fill the pages of its books with this praise? Is Iran not the country that gave Farabi, Abu 'Ali Sina, Khajeh Nasir Tusi, and dozens of other scientific and cultural geniuses to the world? What do we lack?

We have all this wealth and grandeur, all this vast manpower, and all these cultural experiences and achievements! What other nation has had all these divine blessings? He has given you so many blessings, some of which can be seen and some of which cannot!

3. A system without a clear picture of the future cannot succeed and a nation without a national ideal cannot exist as a society. On the other hand, a picture of the future calls for a policy and program provided by a system—a policy and program which give direction and order to decisionmaking. By having an ideal, we can assess our development and identify successes and failures. Otherwise, we will be facing chaos that will weaken us more and more each day, and will make us lose our grandeur.

However, national and popular ideals do not come about spontaneously, but stem from historic realities and situations. The system should discover these ideals and make them the axis of its actions. In a society based on jurisprudence, the imam becomes the manifestation of these ideals and the ummah, through its guidance and steps, always acts with a "picture of the future" in mind.

We are at a sensitive juncture now. The presidential election is not very far away. This will not be an ordinary election because, given the fact that it coincides with various events—especially the changes in the Constitution—and given the main candidate, it may be said that we are on the eve of a major development in our system. In this development it is, first of all, necessary to draw the "picture of the future." This picture affects all areas of government, particularly foreign policy, which is one of the most important aspects of our system.

Today's telecommunications revolution is responsible for this. I think that the three objectives outlined above, in that order of priority, constitute the main source of our practical policies in foreign relations. If we forget the fact that Iran should be the capital of the world of Islam, then we will become a country with a 50-million population, living within a certain geographic boundary. Today, however, we have the capability of becoming the axis of the ideas of more than 1 billion Muslims. Apart from being wrong in itself, it would also be a great political mistake not to pursue this objective. Furthermore, if our defense power is reduced, our enemy will definitely attack us and plots from all sides will increase. Our defense policy should, on the one hand, secure our borders and, on the other, act as an effective element in defending the interests of the world of Islam. The necessary defense power should be built up through a program which will emerge from many years of persistent and uninterrupted work. Foreign policy should regulate itself toward the fulfillment of these objectives. Finally, our independence, the respect we command, and our grandeur are contingent on our being able to stand on our own feet, and this cannot be achieved without development, industries, and science and technology.

In order that we may acquire the necessary elements, foreign policy should become the axis of construction. In short, each one of our basic objectives is contingent on the other and all of them together build the "picture of the future" with today's actions.

A codified foreign policy having a program looks at the "picture of the future" at all times and regulates the steps that it takes with this in mind.

Reportage on Visit of Pakistani Oil Minister

Arrives in Tehran 10 May

LD1005153889 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—Pakistan's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Jahangir Badar heading a delegation, arrived here today for a two-day visit.

He is to exchange views with the Iranian officials on purchase of oil and mutual cooperation in economic and technological fields. Pakistan agreed in March to purchase 20,000 barrels of the Iranian crude per day.

Badar expressed hope that his talks here would bear positive results in light of the oil price increase in world markets.

"Iran and Pakistan should seek wider prospects in their mutual relations," Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said in reply, adding that Iran gives priority to her ties with the neighbouring countries.

He was at the airport to welcome his Pakistani counterpart.

Iran and Pakistan inked a letter of understanding last March which predicts the annual volume of the mutual trade exchanges at $400 million.

Export of Crude Oil Discussed

LD1005185989 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—Extension of the agreement for the daily export of 20,000 barrels of Iranian crude oil to Pakistan as well as cooperation in the field of natural gas and petrochemical products were discussed in a meeting of oil ministers of the two countries here today.

Gholamreza Aqazadeh and his Pakistani counterpart Jahangir Badar also discussed expansion of economic and technical ties between the two neighbours.

Several other Pakistani officials including members of the Pakistani National Assembly Mrs. Amina Piracha were also present at the meeting.

Badar and his delegation arrived here Wednesday for a two-day visit.

Confers With Commerce Minister

LD1105125889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Pakistani Oil Minister Jahangir Badar, who is in Iran at the head of an economic delegation, met with Finance Minister Mohammad Javad Iravani this morning.

According to a Central News Unit report, at this meeting mutual cooperation within the framework of the fourth session of the joint commission and the Organization for Economic Cooperation, ECO, were discussed and the two parties expressed the desire to expand bilateral relations.

According to this report, in the first 4 months, of 1989 the volume of bilateral trade was over $300 million. On the basis of the memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries, the volume of bilateral trade exchange is predicted to rise to $400 million in 1990.

Delivers Bhutto Message

LD1105181289 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA—Visiting Pakistani Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Jahangir Badar today submitted Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi a message from his Pakistani counterpart Mrs Benazir Bhutto concerning mutual relations.

Musavi termed the tradionally strong historical and cultural ties between Pakistan and Iran a "valuable asset" for their current cooperation and said frequent exchange of views on world and Middle East issues would be in their interests.

The premier sent a message through Badar for his Pakistani counterpart on the need for the two neighbouring Muslim states to have strong economic and political ties in the face of "potential common threats" posed to them in the region.

Bader who arrived here Thursday briefed Musavi on the outcome of his talks with Iranian officials and called for expansion of mutual ties in various fields. "Pakistani Muslims were heartily glad of the progress of the Islamic revolution," he added.

In a separate meeting earlier today, the Pakistani minister discussed bilateral ties and other matters of mutual interest with First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Besharati commenting on the Afghan issue, called for a truly popular government in Kabul representing all sections of Afghan people in order to facilitate the return home of the refugees.

Exploration for Oil in Caspian Sea To Begin

LD1105135189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] To prepare the ground for offshore oil drilling and exploration in the Iranian part of the Caspian Sea, the National Iranian Oil Company signed an agreement with a Finnish company to build an oil drilling platform and a shipyard.

According to a Central News Unit report, Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh in an interview with reporters said: On the basis of that agreement, amounting to $63.6 million in hard currency and 960 million rials, a shipyard will be set up in Neka over a period of 40 months. An oil drilling platform will be built at the yard, which will then be towed out to sea.

He added: At the same time that this agreement was signed, the Finnish contractor signed another agreement for the transfer of know-how on constrction and installation of oil platforms. It signed the agreement with the Iran Marine Industries Company—Iran SADRA—which belongs to the Heavy Industries Ministry. According to the agreement, all the work inside Iran will be performed by the SADRA company under the supervision of the Finnish contractor.

Also, operational craft needed to implement the project will be built at Neka by the Iran Marine Industrial Company.

According to a report by the Central News Unit correspondent Mr Aqazadeh added: Geophysics studies and siesomographic operations in the Iranian part of the Caspian Sea done 20 years ago indicate that there are at least 39 major oil deposits in the Caspian Sea. However, because of the difficulties involved in transporting heavy equipment needed for marine drilling from free seas to

the Caspian Sea, exploration wells have not been drilled to earmark the extent of Iran's oil deposits and their exploitation in the Caspian Sea. With the establishment of facilities to build drilling platforms and a shipyard, the opportunity for drilling exploratory oil wells and exploitation of Caspian Sea oil for Iran will be created.

The oil minister said: The drilling platform to explore oil in the Caspian Sea will have a surface of 1,900 square meters and will weigh 6,000 tons. Living quarters for 80 persons will be installed on the platform.

Referring to the importance of the project from the political point of view and from the view of Iranian sovereignty over northern oil deposits and the USSR's exploitation of Caspian Sea oil, said: There is no limitation on our exploitation of oil deposits in northern Iran

On the increase in production of liquified gas, the oil minister said: Domestic consumption of liquified gas amounts to 4,000 tons daily. The output of liquified gas in the country, including the output from the Mahshahr and Abadan refinery facilities, already exceeds domestic needs. After we resolve the problem of tires and spares for gas transportation, beginning next month, liquified gas coupons will be withdrawn. Liquified gas will then be placed at the disposal of consumers in all parts of the country in sufficient quantities.

In conclusion, the oil minister said: Last year the equivalent of $100 million in liquified gas was imported from abroad. Iran will have the opportunity to export liquified gas this year as the projects to produce liquified gas go on line.

Joint Forces Stage Mock Amphibious Attacks

LD1105144589 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The Persian Gulf, May 11 IRNA—Iranian forces staged the fifth stage of the 'Zolfaqar-4' joint air, sea and land maneuvers in the Persian Gulf Thursday.

The day featured amphibious operations against mock enemy targets while naval units escorted 'merchant shipping', sailed through 'mined waters' and displayed refuelling at sea.

Code-named after Imam 'Ali's (PBUH) [peace be upon him] famous double edged sword, the Zolfaqar-4 saw in action all types of warships, mine sweeping and anti-submarine helicopters, paratroopers and commandoes as well as Air Force jet fighters.

A field commander aboard the flagship said the objective of the military exercises was to assess the combat readiness of the Armed Forces particularly full-fledged amphibious assaults.

The joint manuevers, the biggest since the victory of the Islamic revolution (1979), started on May 8.

UNHCR Delegation Visits Iraqi, Kurdish Camps

LD1105210989 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Orumiyeh, May 11, IRNA—A delegation comprising representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Organization and the Interior Ministry visited a camp of Iraqi refugees in Ziveh region here Thursday.

The delegation inspected the living conditions at the camps, the facilities rendered to the refugees, and their educational, cultural and medical requirements.

Welcoming the visitors, a West Azarbayjan provincial official said the northwestern province hosts over 90,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees, 53,000 of whom poured to Iran after the Islamic Republic's acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598 last July. 'Ali Sa'dat said that 3,600 houses have so far been built for refugees in the northwestern border areas and 2,200 others are under construction.

Iran also hosts half a million Iraqi Arabs who sought asylum during the course of the 8 year Ba'thist aggression.

Officers Opposed to War's Prolongation 'Executed'

TA1105175689 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Our fellow strugglers have reported that a large number of officers who were arrested and executed in recent weeks were individuals who before the war's end had called for its termination by sending a letter to Islamic Republic officials.

On the basis of this report, in their letter these officers, offering evidence and proof, had requested the Islamic Republic to end the war because its prolongation was detrimental to the country and benefited the enemy. Now the criminal Islamic Republic regime has arrested these patriotic officers who wrote this letter merely out of patriotism, and has executed some of them.

Editorial Urges 'Serious Struggle' Against Israel

NC1105174689 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 6 May 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Only Islamic Might Will Liberate Al-Quds"]

[Excerpts] Moslems the world over commemorated Al-Quds [Jerusalem] Day yesterday with clenched feasts, chants of Allah-o Akbar [God is great] and in ranks closed in Islamic fraternity behind the cause of the oppressed people of Palestine.

The problems of this people who have been banished from their own homeland, are murdered in the most ferocious ways and whose arms and legs are kicked and broken by stones, is no longer an Arab issue. [passage omitted] The Zionists who, for a while, in spite of their shameful record of genocide against the Palestinians,

would still don a mask of hypocritical democracy, are now exposed to the whole world for the animalistic treatment of Palestinians. They are now a target of criticism, despised and hated the world over.

Aside from the Zionists, the so-called Western democracies too have really put to shame themselves and the principles they claim to adhere to by their outright support for the Zionist aggressions. The U.S. and France top the list of such Western powers. The U.S. in particular, with its shameful vetoing of every and all United Nations resolutions against Israel has proven to the whole world the extent in which it believes in human rights and democracy. The U.S.' unqualified assistance to the anti-human regime in Tel Aviv has tarnished the record of the Washington foreign diplomacy like anything. In fact the U.S. has lost all the prestige it once enjoyed at the end of the World War II only because it has sought to curry favor with the Zionist lobby.

Under these circumstances and convinced that Israel does not comprehend anything beyond the language of force, the Palestinian people will have, as they have chosen, to continue armed struggle to free their land.

Political games and talks will only waste their time and this is what the world imperialist powers want.

The Palestinian problem will be settled in an amazingly short while if and when the Arab heads of state end their lip services and play on words and start a serious struggle against Zionism.

It should also be noted that the imperialists are trying to sell the Palestinian issue as a nationalist cause. That is why they even fuel nationalism among Moslem nations in order to keep them busy within their national boundaries.

But to aware Moslems the issue of Palestine goes beyond all racial and national considerations. It is not a Middle East issue as the enemies put it. Neither is it an Arab-Israel conflict. It is an Islamic cause and as such every Moslem is religiously duty-bound to defend it.

KEYHAN Cited on Government Policy on Israel

LD1105200889 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA—'Fight With Zionism, a Principle of Iran's Foreign Policy' was the title of a commentary in the afternoon Persian daily 'KEYHAN' Thursday.

Commenting on recent statements of Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani the article wrote:

"One of the fundamental principles governing over Iran's foreign policy is our confrontation with the usurper regime (Israel). Since the very beginning of the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic we have maintained that Israel is an aggressor, usurper and illicit entity which has grown like a cancerous tumor in the heart of the Islamic society."

It said, to fight this regime is one of the principles of the Islamic Republic policy, and the defence of the trampled rights of four million Palestinian Muslims has been "intermingled with the blood of our people. We can never remain indifferent against massacre of millions of homeless Palestinians and violation against their legitimate rights."

Calling Israel the "illegitimate child of Western imperialism in the heart of the Islamic world," the daily said that over 40 years have passed since the homelessness of the Palestinians and so far the international body has failed to restore the rights of these oppressed people.

It asked "is it humanitarian for the U.S. U.K., etc to terrorize people and channel billions of dollars of economic and farms aid to the usurper regime which has never made secret its ambitions to expand its realm from the rivers Nile to the Euphrates? Does this mean defending freedom human rights and anti-terrorism fight?

This was in fact, said the daily was the essence of Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks on the International Quds [Jerusalem] Day (May 5) which were distorted by Western mass media in an attempt to misrepresent Iran as a defender of terrorism.

"What we say is that the root of terrorism is the U.S. if the Americans through their financial and political assistance do not allow the Zionists to continue their crimes, there would remain no ground for any aggressive reaction towards these blatant crimes."

These are unalterable clear principles of the Islamic Republic, said KEYHAN and reiterated Iran's defence of the legitimate rights of Palestinians. "We consider Israel as a usurper and illegitimate regime, we are opposed to terrorism, and we never adhere to putting the lives of innocent people at stake," it added.

This was the very theme of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's statements which were deliberately distorted by those who were defeated in Salman Rushdie's satanic affair, it concluded.

Paper Notes TV Spy Program, Cooper Interview

NC1105163789 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 6 May 89 pp 1, 5

[Excerpts] Tehran—Iranian television has shown confessions by six men, including a pseudo clergy and an Air Force pilot, who said they spied for foreign countries.

The broadcast kicked off a weekly series of espionage called "Top Secret". Future programs will put on display members of a big U.S. spy ring whose break-up was announced last month, the television said. [passage omitted]

The program, designed to alert Iranians to espionage dangers, also showed parts of an interview first aired in 1987 with Roger Cooper, a British businessman held on spying charges since November 1985.

Papers Comment on Reconstruction Program
LD1105104189 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpts] Tehran, May 11, IRNA—The Persian daily ABRAR said in its editorial Thursday that the government is to launch a five-year national reconstruction plan at a time marked by impending large-scale replacements because of the forthcoming presidential elections. It said because of the importance of the plan the Islamic government should, as a rule, adopt safeguards against any adverse effects on the process of reconstruction as a result of systematic or even unexpected replacements within the government at any given time.

The following is excerpts from the daily's editorial on the topic.

'The general expectation, since a few months ago, for the government's proclamation of reconstruction programs was responded to earlier this week by an order to the cabinet for execution of the program kindling rays of hope in the society for a full-scale general endeavor for industrial, agricultural and development progress in the country.

'Published under the title of "Reconstruction of War-Stricken Areas: Policies and Priorities" it is actually a national plan bearing all of the peculiarities of long-term development strategies whose accomplishment, for the sake of public knowledge, should be said to require about 20 years.

'A plan with long-term targets should not be allowed to be hindered or suspended because of regular or periodic replacements of office holders. The notification to the cabinet of the reconstruction plan comes too near in time to the upcoming presidential elections with consequent replacements at various levels including the cabinet... at the start of the plan we should perform in a manner to ensure that periodic or even unexpected replacements will not adversely affect the process of the reconstruction programs...

'Although the procedure for national reconstruction also addresses itself to the topic of providing security to the investment of the people, but in order that the reconstruction program may also attract people's cooperation and their investment it should also provide a foreground for such participation by all strata of the society since apparently the executive procedure of the plan does not address the plan to any particular strata or group as the private sector or the people...

'To encourage the people's participation would alone require a planning of its own and application of devices such as assuring the people of a relative welfare and ridding them from the preoccupation of how to hold out at the mere subsistence level under the present circumstances. In the long run the renovation program and its full execution would create a bright outlook, and reconstruction will naturally leave its positive hallmark on every aspect of the people's life including their living standards and will contribute to social welfare.' [passage omitted]

Also in its 'Opinion' column the English daily TEHRAN TIMES commented editorially on the topic saying in part:

'The country's reconstruction plan consists of (A) policies, and (B) priorities.

'The people's participation can be cited as the most significant and outstanding principle stressed on in the policies. The government is to only play a guiding and planning role. Naturally at the implementation phase, private sector and the people have to shoulder the larger part of the task.

'Perhaps a whole decade of continuous crisis and problems in the country could justify the need for centralizing the economy as well a technological and industrial activities. Today, however, the second decade of its revolution when the country is paving a smooth way towards political tranquillity and economic growth, it would be most opportune and advisable if Iranian people take a more serious part in politico-economic matters.

'Among the priorities, oil and energy have been underlined as the two top priorities. Therefore bright prospects can be foreseen for prompt reconstruction and construction operations as well as putting the country's petrochemical complexes, oil refineries and power plants into operation in a successful way.

'Despite various debates on the possibility of employing foreign sources along this line, foreign borrowing and aid can be allowed only within the framework of special rules and regulations. Iran may make use of foreign sources to realize the reconstruction objectives within the framework of the nation's foreign policy principles. Political dependence in any form should be altogether dismissed.

'Of course transfer of technology and technical know-how should be considered by Iran as a principle in such cooperation.'

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